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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

FRONT PAGE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

Reportage on Secretary Baker's 'Anticipated' Visit 2
'Arafat—No Security Without Peace *[Algiers Radio]* 2
'Ashrawi on Halting Settlement *[AFP]* 2
Envoy on U.S. 'Commitment' *[MENA]* 2
Delegates To Present Memorandum to Baker *[JORDAN TIMES 20 Jul]* 3
Commentary Views Visit *[Algiers VOP]* 3
'Completely Different' Tour Noted *[Algiers VOP]* 4
Qaddumi—PLO Views Peace Talks With 'Optimism' *[Algiers VOP]* 4

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Prime Minister Submits New Ministers' Names *[Algiers Radio]* 5
Higher State Council Approves List *[Algiers TV]* 5
Ali Kafi Vows To Implement Boudiaf's Program *[MENA]* 5
Legal Competence Issue in Boudiaf Case Settled *[Algiers Radio]* 6
Further Reportage on FIS Leaders' Trial, Verdict 6
FIS Calls on People To Reject Verdict *[Paris International]* 6
Defense Team To Hold News Conference *[Algiers Radio]* 6
FIS Defense To Appeal Verdicts *[Algiers Radio]* 6
Prosecution Plans To Appeal Sentences *[Algiers Radio]* 6
Situation 'Tense'—Violence, Clashes Reported 6
Demonstrations Held in Algiers *[Algiers Radio]* 6
Further on Demonstrations, Violence *[Algiers Radio]* 6
'Armed Groups' Clash in Djemila *[Algiers Radio]* 7
Radio Station Attacked; Electricity Cut *[Algiers Radio]* 7

Egypt

Mubarak Speaks at Alexandria University Event *[Cairo TV]* 7
Secretary Baker, Israel's Rabin To Pay Visits 11
Tripartite Meeting 'Possible' *[MENA]* 11
Analysis Views Mubarak Meeting With Rabin *[Cairo Radio]* 12
Israeli Envoy—Rabin 'Eager' for Visit *[MENA]* 12
Visit To Focus on Regional Developments *[MENA]* 12
Daily Notes Rabin's 'Twisted Statements' *[MENA]* 13
Daily on Rabin's 'Media Campaign' *[MENA]* 13
Syria's al-Asad To Meet With President Mubarak *[AFP]* 14
Mubarak—Efforts To Solve Libyan Crisis Continue *[MENA]* 14
Libya 'Officially Apologized' for Media Campaign *[AL-WAFD 15 Jul]* 14
Al-Baz Cited on Visit to Libya, Peace Process *[MENA]* 14
Foreign Minister Musa Reviews Regional Relations *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 16 Jul]* 15
African Petroleum Producers Meet in Cairo 17 Jul *[MENA]* 17
Agriculture Minister, U.S. AID Official Meet *[Cairo Radio]* 17

Commentary—'No Place' for Saddam on World Map *[Cairo Radio]* 17
Mubarak Says Hala'ib Territory 'Our Land' *[MENA]* 18
'Foreign States' Said Supplying 'Extremist' Groups *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 14 Jul]* 18
People's Assembly Discusses Terrorism Articles *[Cairo Radio]* 19
'Extremist' Statement Vows Continued Violence *[AL-AHALI 15 Jul]* 19

Libya

Editorial Views 'Truth' About Arabs *[JANA]* 19
AL-JAMAHIRIYAH Views Tripoli Newspaper Item *[JANA]* 20

IRAQ

Saddam Gives Address on Revolution Anniversary *[Baghdad Radio]* 22
Saddam Chairs Meeting of Air Force Officers *[Baghdad Radio]* 30
Responsibility for Death of UN Guard Denied *[Baghdad Radio]* 30
Killing of UN Guard Blamed on U.S. *[INA]* 30
Killer May Have Been 'Worker' *[INA]* 30
Assembly Replies to European Parliament Statement *[Baghdad Radio]* 31
Further Reportage on UN Inspection of Ministry 31
Minister Reiterates Position on Team *[INA]* 31
UN's Ekeus Holds Talks on Crisis *[INA]* 31
'Aziz Meets Ekeus; Rejects Inspection *[INA]* 32
Foreign Minister Receives Ekeus *[INA]* 32
Assembly Protests 'Unethical Conduct' *[Baghdad Radio]* 32
'Sources' Say U.S. Preparing Attack *[Voice of the Iraqi People]* 33
Rebel Radios Report Attacks, Regime Actions 33
Regime Said to Use Banned Aircraft *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 33
Clashes With Regime Reported *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 33
Radio Reports Hand Grenade Attacks *[Voice of Unification]* 33
Opposition Repulses Regime Attack *[Voice of Kurdistan]* 34
Rebels Attack Army Vehicle, Liquor Truck *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 34
Marshland Fights Leave '100 Enemy Dead' *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 34
Republican Guard Officers Dismissed *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 34
Officers Arrested After Loss in Marshes *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 34
Regime Diverting Rivers, Preparing Attack *[Voice of the Iraqi People]* 35
Regime Training Agents Against Opposition *[Voice of the Iraqi People]* 35

ISRAEL

Rabin Comments After First Meeting With Baker *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Baker Meeting 'Met Expectations' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Media Preview Topics for Baker Meeting 36
No Settlement Freeze *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 19 Jul]* 36
Request for Loan Guarantees *[Jerusalem TV]* 37
Effort To Allay Syrian Fears *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Conditions for Multilateral Talks *[HA'ARETZ 20 Jul]* 37
Palestinians Formulate Positions for Baker Meeting 37
Representative to Peace Delegation *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Further on Palestinian Demands *[Jerusalem TV]* 37
Rabin on Peace Process, al-Najah Affair *[Jerusalem TV]* 38
Police Receive Information on Plans To Attack Baker *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39
Police Mount 'Wide-Ranging Operation' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39
KAKH Denies Attack Plan *[Jerusalem Radio]* 40
Rabin To Visit Egypt for Talks With Mubarak *[Jerusalem Radio]* 40
No Rabin-Baker-Mubarak Meeting Scheduled *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 40
Egyptian Envoy Comments *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 40
Al-Najah University Crisis Solved; 6 Deported *[Jerusalem Radio]* 40
Nabulus Curfew Lifted *[Jerusalem Radio]* 40
Chief of Staff on al-Najah Events, Deportation *[Jerusalem TV* 41
Al-Husayni on al-Najah Solution, Baker Visit *[Jerusalem TV]* 42

Cabinet Holds First Session, Makes New Appointments *[Jerusalem Radio]* 43
Likud Submits No-Confidence Motion on Peace Process *[Jerusalem Radio]* 43

JORDAN

King Discusses Baker Visit, Loans, Peace Process *[London International]* 44
King Stresses Value of 'Opportunity' *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 20 Jul]* 44
Amman To Advocate Total Withdrawal *[AFP]* 44
Bin-Shakir Wary of Optimism *[Amman TV]* 45
Bin-Shakir Discusses Inter-Arab Relations *[Amman Radio]* 45
Six Deported Palestinians Arrive 17 Jul *[JORDAN TIMES 18 Jul]* 45
Expelled 'Students' Hold Briefing *[Amman Radio]* 46
Libyan Envoy Arrives in Amman, Makes Statement *[Amman TV]* 46
King Congratulates Saddam on Anniversary *[AL-RA'Y 17 Jul]* 46

LEBANON

'No Meeting' Between Baker, Buwayz Planned *[VOL]* 47
'Expanded' Meeting With Syria Postponed *[VOL]* 47
Hizballah Leader on Rabin, Resistance, Elections *[AL-'AHD 10 Jul]* 47
Ja'ja' Calls For Strike To Protest Elections *[RFL]* 48
Al-Sulh, Patriarch View Elections, Issues *[Shanayh VOM]* 49
PSP, Communists To Take Part in Election *[Shanayh VOM]* 49
Editorial Criticizes Election Seat Allocations *[AL-DIYAR 7 Jul]* 49
Defense Minister Delegates Power to Lahhud *[VOL]* 51

SYRIA

Media Preview Baker's Middle East Tour 52
Daily Notes Conditions for Success *[Damascus Radio]* 52
Radio Views Baker Visit to Israel *[Damascus Radio]* 52
Dailies View Tour, 'Possibilities' *[Damascus Radio]* 53
'Unique Opportunity' Seen *[Damascus Radio]* 53
Khaddam Cited on Support for Lebanese Parties *[Damascus Radio]* 54
Arabs Urged Not To Compromise With Israel *[Damascus Radio]* 54

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Uzbek Militia, Hezb Forces Trade Fire in Kabul *[AFP]* 56
'Heavy' Fighting Noted *[AFP]* 56
'Scores' of Casualties Cited *[AFP]* 56
Shiite Leader Blames Sunnis *[AFP]* 56
Rival Groups Agree to Cease-Fire *[AFP]* 57
Clearance Operation Resumes After Kabul Clashes *[AFP]* 57
Rabbani Accused of Changing Position *[Tehran Radio]* 58
Talks on Improving Ties With Tajikistan Noted *[Kabul Radio]* 58

Bangladesh

Spokesman Views Burmese Refugee Issue *[Dhaka International]* 58
Three Ershad-Appointed Envoys Recalled *[AFP]* 58
President, Premier Congratulate India's Sharma *[Dhaka International]* 59

India

Rao Remarks During No-Confidence Move Detailed *[Delhi Radio]* 59
Further Reportage on Disputed Temple Situation 60
National Integration Council Meets *[Delhi Radio]* 60
Rao Appeals for Reduced Tensions *[Delhi Radio]* 60

Government Action Urged *[Delhi Radio]* 60
Construction Work Continues *[Delhi Radio]* 61
BJP Reaffirms Pledge To Build *[Delhi Radio]* 61
U.S Pressure Behind French Technology Decision *[Delhi Radio]* ..... 6.
Adherence to Regime Urged *[Delhi Radio]* 61
Surface-to-Air Missile Development Breakthrough *[Delhi Radio]* 62
Defense Minister on Induction of Missile, Tanks *[Delhi Radio]* 62
'Grave Concern' Over Burma Border Intrusion *[Delhi Radio]* 62
Wanted Ranking Punjab 'Militant' Arrested *[Delhi Radio]* 62

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Delivers Friday Prayer Sermons 62
Radio Summarizes Content *[Tehran Radio]* 62
Second Friday Prayer Sermon *[Tehran Radio]* 63
Khatami Quit Because of 'Stagnant' Climate *[AFP]* 68
Committee To Study Khamene'i Virtue, Vice Edicts *[Tehran Radio]* 69
Ahmad Khomeyni on Islamic Influence Abroad *[RESALAT 8 Jul]* 69
Editorial Views 'Weakness' in Industrial Sector *[TEHRAN TIMES 8 Jul]* 70
Commentary Views Baker's Middle East Mission *[Tehran TV]* 70
U.S. Congressional Support for MKO Denounced *[SALAM 13 Jul]* 71
Arabs Accused of Abandoning Anti-Israel Struggle *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 13 Jul]* 72
Normalization With Egypt To Begin by End August *[IRNA]* 72
RESALAT Views Ties With Egypt *[IRNA]* 73
Commentary Views Ankara-Tel Aviv Ties *[Tehran Radio]* 74
Tehran Notes Acceptance of UN Resolution 598 *[Tehran International]* 74
Foreign 'Interference' in Afghanistan Assailed *[TEHRAN TIMES 12 Jul]* 75
Iraq Said Using MIGs in Marshlands Offensive *[IRNA]* 76
Velayati Returns To Tehran, Views Germany Visit *[Tehran Radio]* 76
German Nuclear Cooperation Wanted *[Tehran Radio]* 76
Austrian Foreign Minister Arrives in Tehran 18 Jul *[Tehran Radio]* 77
Mock on Bosnia-Hercegovina *[Tehran Radio]* 77
Mock, Ne'matzadeh Discuss Cooperation *[IRNA]* 77
'Full Satisfaction' With Talks *[IRNA]* 78

Pakistan

Sharif Urges 'No Bloodshed' Solution in Kashmir *[Islamabad Radio]* 79
Visits, Addresses Refugees *[Islamabad Radio]* 79
Stresses 'Moral, Political' Support *[Pakistan TV]* 79
Urges UN Action *[Pakistan TV]* 80
Compromise Appeal Against Opposition Withdrawal *[THE MUSLIM 18 Jul]* 80
Army Role in Withdrawal Viewed *[THE FRONTIER POST 18 Jul]* 81
Sindh Chief Views Resignation of MQM Members *[Islamabad Radio]* 81
Ordinance Gives More Powers to Military *[Pakistan TV]* 82
Three Leftist Parties Form Alliance *[THE NATION 18 Jul]* 82
U.S. Assailed for Lack of Support *[THE MUSLIM 19 Jul]* 83
F-16 Issue To Be Appealed to International Court *[THE NEWS 19 Jul]* 83
Cooperation Established With Kabul, Tashkent *[Islamabad Radio]* 84

Sri Lanka

Anti-LTTE Thrust Achieves Military Objectives *[Colombo International]* 84
Embassies Planned in Hungary, Netherlands *[Colombo International]* 85
President Greets Indian President-Elect Sharma *[LANKAPUVATH]* 85

Iraq

The government said it bears no responsibility for the "ugly murder" of a UN guard in Dahuk Governorate, Baghdad radio reported. In a letter to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali, Iraqi UN Ambassador al-Anbari said the murder was "the outcome of the illegitimate interference in Iraq's domestic affairs by the United States and its allies." In a related report, "Western quarters in the United Nations" believe the UN guard may have been killed by "a worker at the site," possibly "following a gambling dispute between the victim and one of his colleagues," according to INA.

Israel

At a joint news conference carried by Jerusalem radio, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin praised U.S. Secretary of State James Baker for his "readiness to take part in the continuation and acceleration of the peace process and the improvement in the relationship between our two countries." Rabin also affirmed that his government is "determined to continue the peace negotiations within the framework of the Madrid conference." The meeting "met expectations," but there were "no breakthroughs" in discussions on the peace process, the settlement issue, or loan guarantees, the radio subsequently reported, citing unidentified aides to the prime minister. Rabin will visit Cairo 21 July for talks with President Mubarak, Jerusalem radio disclosed; however, there will be no tripartite meeting among Baker, Rabin, and Mubarak, Tel Aviv radio noted. Meanwhile, the deadlock between Palestinians barricaded inside al-Najah University and IDF troops was broken with the deportation to Jordan of six Palestinian "fugitives" and the lifting of the curfew on Nabulus, Jerusalem radio announced.

Algeria

The Higher State Council approved the list of 22 new goverment ministers submitted by Prime Minister Belaid Abdesselam, Algiers radio reported. Algiers TV broadcast the names of the new ministers, along with their portfolios.

India

Prime Minister Rao has asked the National Integration Council to suggest a plan of action on the Ayodhya issue, Delhi radio reported on 18 July. He called for a full and complete discussion of all aspects of the issues involved in the latest controversy in order to find a solution. Rao appealed on behalf of the Council to all concerned not to do or say anything that would aggravate tension. Meanwhile, reports from Ayodhya say that construction activity at the site continues despite the government's order to the contrary, according to the radio.

Palestinian Affairs

Reportage on Secretary Baker's 'Anticipated' Visit

'Arafat—No Security Without Peace

LD1807184492 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Excerpts] Brother president leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], Palestinian president, affirmed that there will be no security, stability, or peace in the Middle East region without effecting the Palestinian people's national rights and establishing the independent Palestinian state, with holy Jerusalem as its capital. The brother president stated this in a speech during the mass festival to mark the 40 days since the assassination of the hero 'Atif Busaysu, who was assassinated by the Israeli Mosad gangs in France last month. [passage omitted]

The brother president referred to the Al-Najah events in Nablus and said that Rabin's decision to lay siege to the campus, including male and female students, lecturers, and administrators is an accentuation of Rabin's true face, who attempted to fool the world and the Palestinian people with his sweet words about peace. He stated that the Palestinian people still remembers Rabin and his theories, his practices of breaking intifadah heroes' bones, imprisonment, and expulsions.

Concerning the anticipated visit of U.S. Secretary of State Baker, the brother president leader Abu 'Ammar stated that true peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved without acknowledging the national rights of the Palestinian people and that no peace could be achieved by jumping over these rights, affirming that the achievements of the Palestinian people and its sacrifices have now put it on the political map in the region and will consequently put it on the geographical map. The world must know that we are all project martyrs on the road of liberated holy Jerusalem and that the blood of the martyrs Busaysu, Abu Iyad, Abu Jihad, Abu al-Haul, and all the martyrs will not be wasted, because they have engraved and drawn the new map of Palestine with their blood.

'Ashrawi on Halting Settlement

NC1907143592 Paris AFP in English 1346 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] Jerusalem, July 19 (AFP)—Leading Palestinians underlined their demands for a halt to all Jewish settlements in the occupied territories on Sunday, a day before they were due to meet U.S. Secretary of State James Baker here.

"The most important thing is to stress stopping all forms of settlement activities," said Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman to the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks.

'Ashrawi has written off the new government's temporary freeze on all new building contracts in the territories (?which) also pulls the plug on contracts for 5,000 new homes. Exact figures are not available, but more than 3,600 of the units were to be put up in land occupied since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

However, the freeze does affect construction of 14,000 other units which has already started in the territories, the housing ministry admits. [sentence as received]

Rabin campaigned in the June elections with a promise to stop settlement in areas not considered vital to state security and to pursue it in strategic areas such as the Jordan valley, the Golan Heights and around Jerusalem.

Palestinians do not accept the distinction and Baker has said he will seek clarifications from Rabin on the issue.

"We want Israel to come out with practical steps that would be proof of good intentions," if the peace process is to advance, 'Ashrawi told AFP.

Ghassan al-Khatib, a member of the delegation who is scheduled to meet Baker in Jerusalem on Monday, gave examples such as the release of political prisoners, greater political freedom and an end to human rights abuses.

Envoy on U.S. 'Commitment'

NC2007082392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0723 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jul (MENA)—Palestine's Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal called on U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to reaffirm his country's commitment to President George Bush's initiative, which is considered the basis for the peaceful settlement process in the region.

The Palestine ambassador in Cairo said in a statement to MENA that the U.S. commitment to establish peace in the region and solve the Palestine question, manifested in the calls to attend the Madrid peace conference, stipulates that U.S. credibility exists. He added: Therefore, Baker's current tour of the region following the formation of the new Israeli Government confirms this credibility, to which the U.S. Administration is committed. Kamal clarified that Baker realizes that the source of Palestinian decisions, whether during the peace negotiations or otherwise, is the PLO itself. Therefore, it is vital that U.S.-Palestinian dialogue be reactivated to contribute toward progress in the negotiations process.

Kamal called on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to stop settlements altogether in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem. He affirmed that the security of any state is no longer linked to settlement, as the Gulf and other wars in the world have proven.

He pointed out that Rabin's acceptance of the principle to stop building new settlements and freeze their contracts is merely a beginning, which is not sufficient unless followed by a full halt to settlements.

He said Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat announced after the Israeli elections—during his next-to-last visit to

Cairo—that the Israeli people have opted for peace. Therefore, Rabin must work to realize this peace in the Middle East.

Delegates To Present Memorandum to Baker

JN2007063392 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Jul 92 p 1

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sana' 'Atiyah]

[Text] Amman—Five Palestinian delegates to the Mideast peace talks will today present a memorandum to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in occupied Jerusalem outlining their demands to speed up the peace process, including a call for the U.S. to resume its dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), according to well-informed Palestinian sources.

The U.S. suspended its dialogue with the PLO in June 1990 after the PLO refused to condemn an aborted attack, by the Palestine Liberation Front, a PLO faction.

According to the sources in Amman, the Palestinian memo will call on Mr. Baker to accept a wider representation in the Palestinian negotiating delegation to include residents of Jerusalem and representatives from the diaspora, although it will also reiterate commitment to the principles laid down at the opening Mideast peace conference in Madrid last October.

Israel refused to participate in the peace talks unless the Palestinian representation was limited to residents of the occupied West Bank,—excluding Jerusalem—and the Gaza Strip. The PLO accepted this formula in order to participate in the negotiations, and the PLO leadership maintained its behind-the-scene role throughout the several rounds of talks that have taken place since October.

The Palestinian team expected to meet with Mr. Baker will also call on the American officials to use his country's influence as a co-sponsor of the talks on Israel for an immediate and complete freeze on all Jewish settlement activities in the occupied territories.

The peace delegates Mr. Baker is scheduled to meet with this morning at the American consulate in Jerusalem are: chief negotiator Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the delegation Faysal al-Husayni spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi, Ghassan al-Khatib and Samir al-Kilani.

The Palestinian sources told the Jordan Times the memorandum to Mr. Baker will also demand that Israel fully comply with the Geneva conventions, that Mr. Baker receive a commitment from the Israeli government that it adopts "confidence-building measures," such as releasing political prisoners, allowing expelled Palestinians to return home, and to stop violating Palestinian human rights.

"The Palestinian memo will also demand from Mr. Baker his country's commitment to link the interim self-government period to the final solution," said a Palestinian source.

The source reiterated that the final settlement, after the three- year interim period, during which authority is supposed to be transferred to the Palestinians in the occupied territories through legislative elections, was the implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

The Palestinian memo also includes a demand for "comprehensive Palestinian elections to take place as soon as possible and prepare all the necessary measures to guarantee that they be free... and that the Israeli forces withdraw from all the populated areas during the elections period," according to the sources.

According to the American letter of assurances, the Palestinians would hold elections in the occupied territories one year after the launching of the peace conference for the interim period until the final status of the territories is reached during negotiations.

The Palestinian sources added that the memo also reiterates the Palestinian commitment to speed up the peace process, and asks Mr. Baker that his country fulfil its commitment on the time-frame of the negotiations, as stated in the American letter of assurances.

Commentary Views Visit

LD1907213292 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is due to arrive today in occupied Palestine on the first leg of an important tour during which he will visit Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Saudi Arabia to discuss ways and means to give momentum to the peace process following the political changes in the region, particularly the victory of the Labor Party in the Israeli elections and the formation of a new government led by Yitzhaq Rabin.

There is a general optimism that the new American effort will lead to a fresh takeoff of the peace process, possibly with an immediate intensification of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations on self-rule for the Palestinians in the Arab occupied territories. Despite this optimism, Baker's mission on this tour is not an easy one if the United States wants to preserve its credibility as a honest and neutral mediator in finding a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Regarding the essential issues of the peace process—such as the issue of Israeli settlements in the Arab occupied territories, the question of Jerusalem, and the question of self-rule for the Palestinians—the policy of Yitzhaq Rabin, even if it is different in some aspects from that of Yitzhaq Shamir, is going to remain a real obstacle in the face of any progress toward the realization of a just and comprehensive peace between the Arabs and Israel.

Freezing political settlements, as Rabin calls it, does not constitute a sufficient platform for a fresh takeoff. All Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, which began in the wake of the Israeli occupation in 1967, are

in fact political settlements, including the Israeli settlement in Arab Jerusalem, and they are in contradiction with resolutions on international legality and Arab rights.

The undeclared objective of this tour, which could be just as important, concerns the domestic policy of American President Bush's administration in light of the intensification of the American presidential election campaign, in which the American president is faced with a drop in his popularity in American opinion polls in comparison with his Democratic opponent, Bill Clinton. In this respect Israel is going to be the first to benefit from the Baker visit.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that this Baker tour constitutes a second victory for the Labor Party, particularly its leader, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The American Congress, the Jewish community, the information media [words indistinct] government of Yitzhaq Rabin.

It has not been ruled out that James Baker will take advantage of his visit to Israel to announce his administration's agreement to [words indistinct] to absorb the Jewish immigrants, and his saying yes to other Israeli economic and military demands. This is likely to help President Bush attract Jewish voters and get a lot of attention in the American information media which has lately begun to focus on his Democratic opponent and his pro-Israeli political program.

For this reason, the success of Baker's current tour will depend on his ability to conciliate the requirements of the electoral policy of President Bush's administration, which clearly favors Israel, and the U.S. commitment—as a neutral side and the main sponsor of the peace negotiations—to bringing about a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the Middle East.

'Completely Different' Tour Noted

LD1907200492 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dear brothers, the U.S. secretary of state is starting his ninth tour of the region, a tour that, with its circumstances and data, looks completely different from previous tours during which Baker could not cross the Israeli deterrence wall that Shamir built in front of the peace process. Rather, Israel persisted in greeting every one of his previous tours by building a new settlement in the occupied territories, which contradicts the declared U.S. policy toward Israeli settlement in the occupied territories.

From here, and in the light of circumstances and recent developments that occurred in the Israeli political arena, one can believe in the possibility that Baker could succeed this time in crossing the deterrence wall that Shamir built in front of the peace process and bring about the desired change in Israeli policy, especially as the leaders of Israel announced on the eve of Baker's visit the freezing of settlement building in the occupied territories. They announced their readiness to start intensive and continuous negotiations to arrive at an agreement over the final formula for the transitional period in the occupied territories.

But it should not escape our notice that the haste in sending Baker to the region is based on internal U.S. calculations which come within the context of the election campaign. This is a campaign in which Bush is trying to secure achievements at the level of the peace process in the region to enable the U.S. Administration to lift the embargo on the guarantee loans to Israel; it is an issue which constitutes an attempt to polarize the Jewish vote in the elections.

At any rate, we hope that Baker will not use the national legitimate rights of our people and the principles of international legitimacy as a bridge to reach the hearts of Jewish voters, because these rights, and those principles, are not for bargaining and are not subject to neglect. True peace in the region cannot be achieved by practising more conciliatory policies toward Israel, or adulation of it. The role of the neutral mediator, which Washington claims to play in the peace process, requires serious action by the United States to put an end to the continued Israeli stubbornness, and to make the leaders of Israel understand they will not be immune from punishment if they continue in their refusal to respond to the requirements of peace to which Arabs and the Palestinians have responded.

It should be recalled here that any U.S. drive for peace in the region cannot arise from a free payment of the loan guarantees to Israel, because such payment must be accompanied by a practical, serious halt of settlement in its two forms—political and security—and the recognition of the national, legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, and first its right in self-determination and the establishment of its independent state. Without that, Baker's tour will be no luckier than his previous tours.

Qaddumi—PLO Views Peace Talks With 'Optimism'

LD1807220392 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] Brother Abu-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, reiterated that the PLO views the next round of peace talks with optimism but with caution. He added that the PLO followed Rabin's address to the Knesset with great interest, noting that a U.S. initiative was at stake and that Rabin is close to U.S. proposals. He also rejected Rabin's distinction between political and strategic settlements, considering that the occupied territories remain occupied and that such settlements were illegitimately set up on Palestinian land.

Algeria

Prime Minister Submits New Ministers' Names

LD1907190992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1850 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] An APS flash states that new Prime Minister Belaid Abdesselam has today submitted to the Higher State Council the formation of his government, which includes 22 ministers, seven of whom filled ministerial positions in the resigning government of Sid Ahmed Ghozali. We will provide you with more details on the members of this government shortly. We are waiting to receive the list of the government, and will give it to you in our next news bulletin.

Higher State Council Approves List

LD1907195392 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] The Higher State Council [HSC] met today, 19 July, at the Presidency of the Republic under the chairmanship of Ali Kafi and received Prime Minister Belaid Abdesselam, who presented the list of government members. The Higher State Council has adopted this list, thereby appointing the following:

Prime Minister Belaid Abdesselam	Minister of Economy
Major General Khaled Nezzar	Minister of National Defense
Lakhdar Brahimi	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Messaoud Ait Chaalal	Minister-Adviser to the Prime Minister
Abdelhamid Mahi Behi	Minister of Justice
Mohamed Hardi	Minister of Interior and Local Communities
Ahmed Djebbar	Minister of National Education
Abdennour Keramane	Minister of Mines and Industry
Brahim Chibout	Minister of War Veterans
Mohamed Elias Mesli	Minister of Agriculture
Sassi Lamouri	Minister of Religious Affairs
Farouk Tebbal	Minister of Housing
Mohamed Seghir Babes	Minister of Health and Population
Maamar Benguerba	Minister of Labor and Social Affairs
Djelloul Baghli	Minister of Vocational Training
Abdelwahab Bakli	Minister of Tourism and Handicrafts
Habib Chaouki Hamraoui	Minister of Culture and Communications
Abdelkader Khomri	Minister of Youth and Sports
Tahar Allan	Minister of Post and Telecommunications
Mokhtar Meherzi	Minister of Transportation
Hacene Mefti	Minister of Energy
Mokdad Sifi	Minister of Equipment

The Higher State Council has also appointed ministers-delegate to the minister of economy. They are Ahmed Benbitour, minister-delegate for the Treasury; Tahar Hamdi, minister-delegate for trade; and Ali Brahiti, minister-delegate for the budget.

Other appointments: Mohamed Tolba, minister-delegate to the interior minister and local communities, in charge of public security, and director general of national security; and Kamel Leulmi, secretary general of the government.

Other appointments to come: a minister-delegate to the minister of economy in charge of small and medium-sized entreprises, and a secretary of state in charge of scientific research.

Ali Kafi Vows To Implement Boudiaf's Program

NC1907220392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2135 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jul (MENA)—Ali Kafi, chairman of the Algerian Higher State Council, has stated that the Algerian people are capable of overcoming the crisis of the assassination of departed Algerian President Mohamed Boudiaf after realizing the real aim behind the assassination crime. In a statement to the Cairo newspaper AL-AKHBAR to be published on 20 July, he said that the assassination of Boudiaf is part of a formidable scheme designed to destabilize the country and create chaos. This scheme, he said, relies on violence, terrorism, sabotage, and plotting by various groups aiming to destabilize Algeria.

Kafi said that Algeria is capable of foiling all maneuvers meant to destabilize the country, noting that the people realize that confronting the plotters lies in strengthening their unity and solidarity. He pointed out that the Algerian masses, by their large turnout at Boudiaf's funeral, wanted to prove their rejection of the assassination of a symbol of the Algerian revolution. They wanted to disappoint his killers and declare that they reject striking at the people's hope to build a strong Algeria.

Kafi stressed the Higher State Council's and the Algerian people's determination to continue the national course and implement the program they charted with Boudiaf, whatever the price, to regain the state's prestige, standing, and international reputation and to emerge from the current crisis. He said: We will not hesitate to exert every effort to preserve Algerian unity. He said that the Higher State Council's outstanding and urgent tasks are to establish security and stability in Algeria and to clear the economy from corruption and build it on sound foundations.

Legal Competence Issue in Boudiaf Case Settled

LD1907171692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] Five days before the deadline set for the national investigation commission to reveal the circumstances of the assassination of the late President Mohamed Boudiaf, the public prosecutor of Annaba Court announced today that the court's prosecution has canceled its order, issued on 12 July 1992, relating to the legal incompetence regarding the issue of the assassination of the late President Mohamed Boudiaf. This will be confirmed to us by our correspondent from Annaba, colleague Fakhar:

[Fakhar] In fact, it seems that the ambiguity is over which characterized the measures related to incompetence regarding the assassination of President Mohamed Boudiaf.

The acting public prosecutor of Annaba Court announced that, as of today, 19 July, the prosecution has announced the cancellation of the order regarding legal incompetence issued on 12 July by the investigating magistrate, and it has once again requested that the judicial investigation be pursued by the same magistrate.

Therefore, and in keeping with this order, Annaba Court has jurisdiction in this issue in accordance with article 40 of the Penal Measures Code, which stipulates provincial jurisdiction regardless of whether the issue is military or civilian.

Further Reportage on FIS Leaders' Trial, Verdict

FIS Calls on People To Reject Verdict

LD1707162792 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Finally to Algeria, with another Islamist demonstration in an Algiers suburb and the first reaction by the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] to the 12-year prison sentence for Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj. In a communique, the FIS calls on the population—I quote—to express by all means its rejection of the iniquitous verdict reached against its leaders on behalf of the people, end quote. The FIS also said that this trial was the latest mistake of the junta in power.

Defense Team To Hold News Conference

LD1807112392 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] The defense of the leaders of the dissolved FIS will hold a news conference this afternoon at the El-Safir Hotel in Algiers to clarify their position on the sentences, of between four and 12 years, handed down last Wednesday by the Blida military court against the seven accused leaders.

It is noteworthy that the defense has a maximum of eight days from the sentence date to make their appeal to the supreme court.

FIS Defense To Appeal Verdicts

LD1807165192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] The defense counsel for the banned FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] announced at a news conference today that it will appeal the court's verdict. This appeal could take place at the high court before 22 July.

The defense counsel's statements also indicated that Abassi Madani denied the statements of the military public prosecutor in which he said that Abassi Madani and Abdelkader Boukhamkham had stated that their lawyers had let them down.

Prosecution Plans To Appeal Sentences

LD1807223392 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Excerpt] It was learned today from sources close to the military court in Blida that the military prosecution plans to appeal to the Supreme Court over the sentences handed down against the seven leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front. [passage omitted]

Situation 'Tense'—Violence, Clashes Reported

Demonstrations Held in Algiers

LD1707154192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] There is tension in various districts in El-Harrach, Bourouba, Djenane El-Mabrouk, and Urgence. This started with a march after the Friday prayers. The situation then became more tense, and intensive gunfire was heard. The radio correspondents stressed that many inhabitants of these areas hurried back to their homes, where they are following up the situation with much concern. The Chevalier quarter witnessed similar developments when young people demonstrated in the streets following the prayers. Intensive gunfire also was heard there. However, the situation calmed down later. Similar tension was registered in Bab El-Oued, and more precisely at the Quartier des Trois Horloges. The gendarmes also are patrolling at various points in Kouba municipality.

Further on Demonstrations, Violence

LD1707172792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] A number of quarters of the capital witnessed disturbances following the Friday prayers today. Tension was registered in particular in the following quarters: Bourouba, Djenane El-Mabrouk, and Urgence in El-Harrach, the Chevalier region in the capital's heights, and in the Quartier des Trois Horloges in Bab El-Oued. These developments occurred following the Friday prayers when marches have been staged during which demonstrators chanted slogans expressing rejection of the sentences against the leaders of the dissolved Islamic Salvation front [FIS] passed by the Blida military court.

The radio correspondents, who visited these quarters, note that the security forces and the gendarmerie intervened to disperse the demonstrators by firing warning shots. They surrounded the quarters where tension was registered, which prevented our colleagues from entering these quarters. However, they [correspondents] noticed that intensive gunfire was heard later.

A medical source in Maillot Hospital in Bab El-Oued told APS that three wounded people were received following clashes which took place after the Friday prayers in that very quarter between the security forces and groups of demonstrating young people. The same source said that one of the three people who were wounded by bullets is in critical condition because he was hit in the head. This person was transferred from Maillot Hospital to Mustapha Bacha University Hospital. Furthermore, the radio correspondents, who are on the spot, precisely in Maillot Hospital, reported that an as yet unidentified person was killed in these confrontations, in addition to four people wounded. Our correspondents said that the situation is still very tense, and that security reinforcements were deployed in the area.

Radio sources in Constantine reported that groups of people, whose number they could not determine, tried to stage marches following the Friday prayers in some quarters in the vicinity of the old town, especially the Ameziane and Sidi Mabrouk quarters where the situation was very tense when the security forces intervened to disperse demonstrators by firing warning shots. Similar attempts to demonstrate have been registered in Setif, from where radio correspondent Faisal Ghames reports:

[Ghames] Security sources stressed to the radio that a group of about 100 persons attempted following the Friday prayers to stage a march from the Tbinet quarter mosque. These sources reported that at the end of the prayers a person urged the worshippers to take part in this march. However, many worshippers left the mosque for fear the situation would deteriorate. The same sources stressed that the security elements who were on the spot were able, without resorting to the use of force, to disperse those who were present. The sources said that, after that, 11 people were arrested on the spot. Apart from this, calm prevailed over the rest of the quarters of Setif following the Friday prayers.

'Armed Groups' Clash in Djemila

LD1807111392 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] Our correspondent in Setif is reporting some disturbances in the historic area of Djemila. Various sources report that there have been confrontations since yesterday morning between an armed group, scattered in the forest area surrounding the area, and the national gendarmerie forces.

We are unable to ascertain if there are any casualties yet due to the absence of official information. However, the confrontation is reportedly continuing today.

Our correspondent, Faisal Ghenim, will return with further details following the news broadcast.

Radio Station Attacked; Electricity Cut

LD1907140592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] Clashes took place in Constantine last night between members of the security forces and armed elements. Our reporter Mahfoud Ghiden has details on the fighting:

[Begin Ghiden recording] The National Establishment for Television and Radio Transmission was attacked, causing serious damage to the control room. The security and police forces quickly gained control of the situation.

Last night at 2030 the Martyrs Square in the heart of the city was the scene of a clash, which lasted for nearly 30 minutes, between an armed group and security forces. The road leading to the southern part of the city was cut off with barricades; electricity was also cut off.

As we wait for further information, the situation at the moment is calm.

Egypt

Mubarak Speaks at Alexandria University Event

NC1907105092 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1905 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's dialogue with faculty and students from Alexandria University in the university hall during its 50th anniversary celebration on 18 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Applause and chanting] [Mubarak] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate: I take this opportunity to congratulate Alexandria University, a university steeped in history through its memorable stand during the July 1952 Revolution. I congratulate this university on its 50th anniversary. [applause]

When I congratulate Alexandria University, I congratulate its students, teachers, deans, president, and all its staff. [applause]

We have become accustomed to meeting with each other, maybe even on an annual basis, although in some cases nonannual meetings do take place if the circumstances allow. Had the issue been in my hands, I would have met with you and with other universities from time to time. We need to talk frankly about our internal affairs, the economic situation, the peace process, our international relations with the East, the West, Africa, and Arab countries, because all these things are linked in one chain. One cannot carry out economic reform in

Egypt without having strong and good relations with the outside world, because you simply need them.

We need to have good relations with the entire world so we can overcome the crisis we are in the process of surmounting. When I took office in October 1981, the economic situation was truly frightening. But when I shouldered the responsibility before the citizens, I was forced to delve deeply into every issue to find out how we are progressing and how to help the citizens overcome the crisis. It is not at all possible to remain silent about and give in to the situation we are in. If we do surrender, we become worse off than the Soviet Union, Russia, and many other countries. I do not need to mention what is happening to these countries; they are completely broke and begging other countries for help. Some of them need 25 billion [currency not specified], which they cannot get; who will give them 25 billion [currency not specified]? They approach the Arab countries, or even other countries. The absolute minimum for the citizens is not available, and what is available is sold in hard currency, in dollars. In a country like Russia, the dollar is the currency circulating in the market. A taxi does not charge you in rubles, rather in dollars. If you buy something in a shop, you pay in dollars. All products are imported from abroad. Their currency... [changes thought] Perhaps our brothers who have been to the former Soviet Union can remember that we used to sell the dollar on the black market for 4, 5, or 6 rubles, in some of the southern republics maybe even for 10 rubles. I was one of those people, too; I am not trying to keep this fact from you. We were all like that. I was not alone. All the Arabs used to travel there, hiding dollars in the heels of their shoes, and I do not know what else they used to do. [laughter] These were all well-known tricks. They also used to smuggle in gold. In the big countries, gold was plentiful. Who are we kidding?

How much do you think the dollar is worth there now? It has reached 150 and 160 rubles, and in some cases it goes up to 180 and even 200 rubles, when in fact the ruble was more expensive than the dollar in the official rate of exchange, which is, of course, because there is no production whatsoever. The country is dead. In this collapse that has taken place, people are hoping to find their bread at any price. This is a superpower, yet its situation cannot get any worse.

Thank God, we adopted measures 15 years before them and salvaged ourselves. As for the economic situation, I am not an economist; I am not specialized in this field. We have many specialists in our country in various fields. I held an economic conference that included various professors and experts in this field, and they established a basis for us to follow in order to continue with our reforms.

Economic reform has many conditions, including financial support and other things that you know about. There are many good professors here who know this subject in detail. I was not able to take these steps at first, because I was afraid for the citizens; I was afraid for the people. The people are my brothers, my sons, and my grandchildren; they are the future. I was not afraid of anything. If someone was afraid, he would leave his position and allow someone else to take his place. We need to deal with the situation and be completely frank with the citizens. If anyone has a better suggestion, they should make it known and we will adopt it.

When we started the five-year plan in 1982, many economists told me during our meetings: Mr. President, the situation requires a courageous step. What sort of courageous step? They said: Cancel subsidies, cancel free education, lay off 25 percent of the government's employees. Oh no!

Reduce the Army, they said. The Egyptian Army supports every citizen; it backs the Egyptian people. The Egyptian Army secures the country's existence. It is not an aggressive army that seeks to occupy other areas. The feeling that no one can attack our country fills us with pride and strength. [applause]

Our Army does not fit the stereotypes some people may have of an army. No, you and I and every citizen can be proud that two of our divisions helped to liberate Kuwait. Before that, our Army took part in the October war. We should not forget our Army now that the war is over. It might have many other responsibilities, such as training, but the Army makes sacrifices when needed. Our soldiers are prepared to die by the hundreds and thousands. Who makes up the Army but our own sons? If you were to reduce the Army, what would you really be doing? You would be dismissing your own sons. People have sons and brothers in the Army. These sons would have nothing to do outside the Army and would become unemployed. What would you do then? The Army employs people and gives them jobs. They earn their income to survive. If you were to discharge people from the Army, you would weaken it. Our self-esteem would drop.

We have initiated economic reforms and have made great progress. I have said on more than one occasion—in my 1 May speech—that economic reform places a great burden on us all. We do not want to delay economic reform until things are destroyed, people cannot find anything to eat, and we reach a stage of collapse. That is exactly what happened in Russia. [passage omitted]

What are we going to do for the citizens who graduate and find no work? We always seek investment, whether by Egyptians. And for your information, perhaps more than 70 percent of the investment in Egypt is by Egyptians [applause]; the entire Arab investment is about 17 or 18 percent; and foreign investment is about 2 or 3 percent. I am proud of this. Should I frighten away Egyptian capital and start imposing restrictions on it? Some say: Oh, this fellow has made much profit. So what? Let him make a profit, provided he does it honestly and invests his money to benefit the citizens. [passage omitted]

In order to have investment, brothers, we must have stability. Whenever I talk about stability, someone says: What? Everything you talk about has to deal with stability. What do you want me to do? You want to live, and I want to ensure for you a minimum standard of living. To do this, stability must exist. Without stability, tourism and investment will go away. How can we live when we are multiplying at such a dreadful rate? Imagine; our population has increased by 14 million since 1982, equal to the population of the Gulf states. [passage omitted]

Stability is important. I don't know what those who attack us want. There are groups that encourage them. There is a certain party that encourages and defends them. By God, you will destroy your country. They don't want to understand. They don't want to understand. For several years there have been calls for a law on terrorism. You read this in the press. Many ideas were put to us. I said: Let us not have a law on terrorism, because some will claim that we are passing an emergency law. I do not want an emergency law, and I do not want this aggravation. Let us amend the penal law regarding some of the punishments. We started to amend the law; but the one-upmanship continued. For God's sake, tell us how can we solve the problem. For three years there have been calls for a law on terrorism. I did not want a law on terrorism. I said let us amend the articles of the law so as to solve the problem of terrorism; otherwise, the country will be ruined. How will you survive when there is no tourism and no investment? How will we survive? Our people will face severe hardship. We will not be able to continue. Every citizen must assist toward stability, or else there will be a great tragedy. We will increase by more than a million annually, and there will be no stability. Then what? [applause] [passage omitted]

We have embraced privatization [preceding word in English] but in a way that serves the citizens and in a way that the state can serve the citizens. Look at what England and France are doing; look at the conditions for privatization. I am not going to tell you that al-Mahhallah [major industrial site] is up for sale like it was an apartment for rent. No. What sale? Will I let a foreigner hold me by the throat? No. [applause]

We should calculate these things. Do not let anyone deceive you by saying that we are selling. [passage omitted]

I was telling the ministers that when the Germans receive a tip, either in writing or by telephone, that a particular house on a particular street is a possible terrorist hideout, they close the entire street and search every house without permission from the prosecutor's office or the judiciary. In Egypt, however, we obtain permission and act according to the Constitution. Then we amend some laws... [pauses] I do not know. How can we manage this country's affairs? How can we ensure stability for the people? Do we want to encourage terrorism? Maybe some are opposed to this, so tell us what to do. A dialogue? A dialogue is worthy of the people, who we fear may be entrapped by terrorism. You tell them: Come, let us have a dialogue. They say: You are an infidel. What can we do? I thought of amending the criminal procedures law only after three or four years of receiving letters and reading articles. They said: Let us enact a separate law. We had two options, either to enact a separate law or amend existing laws. I told them: Let us not enact a separate law, because they will say it is an emergency law or a bad law. But I have to ensure the safety of our citizens and our country. I have to provide job opportunities to our youth so they can survive. [passage omitted]

We did not enact a law that violates the Constitution or the Islamic shari'ah. We are also Muslims; it is not like they are Muslims and we are not.

I have some questions from my brothers.

[Unidentified announcer] President Mubarak answered a question about Egyptian-Arab relations. His excellency underlined the strong, close ties Egypt has with Saudi Arabia, Oman, and every Gulf and Maghreb country. He stated that Arab relations have unique characteristics and a unique nature. Concerning Egyptian-Sudanese relations, Mubarak explained that Egypt supported the salvation revolution from the beginning. He stated that surprising changes have taken place and surprising stands have been adopted, adding that these stands are contrary to the nature of the two peoples. He said that these stands reflect a minority's desire to spread sedition, problems, and estrangement. He also stated that this minority hates to see Egypt enjoying progress and stability.

On the issue of Hala'ib and Shalatayn, Mubarak said: Our rights are clear; it is Egyptian territory and we will not relinquish a single inch of it. Answering a question on the phosphate company operating in this area, he said it is an Egyptian company operating on Egyptian territory, and that there is no need to mix political and administrative borders.

The president then concluded by saying:

[Mubarak] I never wanted our relations with Sudan to be bad, but they wanted our relations to be bad. I do not want to have bad relations with any country, but when you impose a bad relationship on me, I will not bow. Bad relations affect the dignity of every citizen. If I bowed to you, it would be as if the Egyptian citizens were bowing to you. I will not bow. If I am wrong, I will say so, but if you are wrong, I will tell you so.

Bosnia-Hercegovina. Reports say that Egypt is playing an important and effective role in the Bosnia-Hercegovina problem in Yugoslavia. What is Egypt's role in Somalia? I have discussed this in the past. They are not only killing Muslims in Hercegovina, they are killing Christians as well. Why are we making it an issue of religion? I do not understand this. One of our unions is raising a clamor about Bosnia-Hercegovina and collecting contributions. My God. I once said that French

women doctors—and I believe some other nationalities—are treating and feeding the poor Somalis. But Bosnia-Hercegovina is something else and they are collecting contributions. What about the poor that are dying in Somalia? What about Croatia? Croatia and all its Christians were battered. Why did the Christian countries not intervene?

At any rate, we have dispatched our forces at the request of the United Nations. Our forces are there to keep the peace and not to fight. Why are we sending them? Because of Egypt's unique status. The Egyptian Army fought in the October 1973 war and helped in the Gulf war, and it has now been asked to join the peacekeeping forces in a sensitive part of the world. This is a very great boost to our reputation. Our sons can go and see the world, and we have a very good opportunity to increase our reputation. Dr. Butrus Butrus- Ghali spoke with me and asked what I would think of this proposal. I told him I would agree. Everything, the pros and the cons, had to be calculated. I found that we would benefit, and they were sent.

The peace process. The Labor Party won the recent Israeli elections. Whether the Labor Party, the Likud, the MAPAM, the SHAS, or any other party wins is their own affair. Rabin is coming here soon. It will the first visit he makes. I met him once here for three hours. I am not saying that he will make concessions or anything of the sort. We would be wrong to understand it as such. He is an Israeli who is concerned with his country and his people. But we want peace. We are trying to help the parties as much as we can. Rabin is coming, and we will talk with him. It is good for Egypt that his first visit will be here. Baker will come the next day. Baker will go to Israel tomorrow and then to Syria and Jordan and then he will come here on Wednesday. Rabin is coming on Tuesday. He will stay for few hours and then go. Baker is coming on Wednesday. We will talk to see what we can do. We are helping as much as we can because our position and Egypt's status in the region are basic and pivotal. We can help and we were the ones to help convene the Madrid conference. We cannot abandon our role because this constantly highlights Egypt's importance. I now believe that, in the current conditions, all the parties want a solution.

The Damascus Declaration on Gulf security: We know that agreements have been concluded between Kuwait, the United States, and some European countries for the protection of Kuwait. We will wait and see if they will implement the Damascus Declaration. To tell you the truth, I am not very interested in it because it does not make much difference to me. When I need something I talk to them. I talk to them when I am in an economic squeeze. They do not hesitate to help us. [passage omitted]

How does your excellency see the future of democracy and its relationship with the Egyptian parties? We are suffering from irresponsible political party activity. I understand that political party activity must be for the homeland's and the citizens' benefit. The party that does not act for the good of the citizens and to improve their living standards—to tell you the truth—does not deserve to live. In our democracy, we exploit the citizens' simplicity. We have a high rate of uneducated people. Because of this simplicity and the high rate of uneducated people, we can infuse very dangerous ideas into the people's minds. Democracy can be soundly established when you have educated people, people who can read and write. Are you asking me to open the door wide with the illiteracy rate I have here? If this will work, please tell us. If I cannot bear the responsibility for this, I will tell you to look for someone who can. My responsibility is to seek the people's benefit, not just to do a little bit in the media sphere and say I have done this and that and then all at once discover that the people have fallen into the abyss. I cannot do it. I will never lie to you about anything; tell you one thing and then do something else. I will tell you the truth, because as I said, the country belongs to each of us. It does not belong to me; it belongs to everyone. Do you know your country's condition? There are things that, in the public interest, cannot be said because they are used against the people. [passage omitted]

Some people are saying that we should be self-sufficient in wheat. I am surprised with these educated people, who are supposed to know better. We can have self-sufficiency in wheat only at the expense of other crops. Our arable land is limited. We raise sugar cane, vegetables, fruits, cotton, beetroot, and [word indistinct] in order to operate the factories. If the land allocated for wheat is increased, it will be at expense of cotton and other crops. Where can I get cotton for the factories? Our whole country uses cotton fabrics? From where? Shall I import it? It will be the same problem, but at least cotton, beetroot, and sugar cane are making the factories operate. We plant as much wheat as we can, but to tell you the truth, I cannot imagine us achieving self- sufficiency in wheat.

There is agriculture on the northern coast. They say the rain is not enough to irrigate the land and they need more water. Where will they get the water? Our share of the Nile is limited and we are already consuming more than our share, which is why we are calling for rationalizing the irrigation system and doing what we can. I hope that God will guide us and our population will not increase at such a high rate. By God, if our population had not increased by 13 million, we would be living in prosperity at our present production rate. Why does the German population not increase? We cannot cope with this annual increase of 1.3 million people. It bankrupts us just to provide them with milk. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified staff member] [passage omitted] I want to raise the issue of nuclear energy. We should not pursue this in a way that burdens the state budget, but we should also not abandon this field and risk falling behind in this technology. For example, if we had small reactors—300 or 400 megawatts—to keep up with the technology, expertise, and advances of some countries...

[Mubarak, interrupting] We have an agreement with Argentina.

[Staff member] The Atomic Power Commission's Argentine reactor is a research unit. It is only about 20 megawatts and has nothing to do with energy. I am talking about technology in the sphere of power [preceding word in English]. We could, for example, import small reactors from Canada that do not use enriched [preceding word in English] fuel...
[Mubarak, interrupting] Or China.

[Staff member] Possibly China. But Canada is probably more advanced in this field. Your excellency promised to provide a training reactor for the Nuclear Engineering Department at a meeting of the Higher Council for Energy you chaired in 1986. We were proceeding in that direction until the oil crisis reduced our resources. This is the only reason I kept quiet. We hope that Your Excellency...
[Mubarak, interrupting] How much does it cost?

[Staff member] No more than eight or nine million. [currency not specified]
[Mubarak] Yes, it does not cost much. [laughter]

If you ask me for something so expensive I have to tell you to wait and see. [passage omitted]

The issue of nuclear reactors arose at a difficult time for me; not only during a financially difficult period but also at a time when the whole world was criticizing nuclear energy. There was an antinuclear campaign in the United States and every other country. This campaign continues. Our country could not cope with a nuclear accident. We do not have enough expertise in nuclear facilities to import them. It would require years to develop the expertise necessary to import them.

A station would cost over $2 billion. What? No. I am talking about nuclear power stations. If we set up a network of three or four stations, we would start with $2 billion, but this figure would reach $5-6 billion by the time it was finished; that is, the final figure would be between $18-20 billion. Frankly, I would be leaving a debt for the citizens, a burden on the people. I cannot do this. I cannot ensure that there would be no leakage [preceding word in English]. The people are not very informed and we would have a catastrophe. The wind blowing this way or that would kill half the population. You must have heard about what happened in Chernobyl in the Soviet Union; what happened there—the victims, the suffering, the newborn, and the calamities they had. We cannot afford a new catastrophe because we cannot afford the expense. In addition, the debt we would incur would be terrible; I do not want to add more burdens than the people can endure.

If it is a question of a small nuclear reactor, China makes 300-megawatt reactors at half the price charged by Canada and others. I cannot go to the Canadians and suffer. They want to bleed you dry. They put up the plant at a starting cost of $500 million, but this figure would rise to $1.5 billion by the time they finished. China is more my size. For example, our debts to them. How much? 160 million? Oh yes, around 150 million. [currency not specified] I tell them that I am in a bind and cannot pay interest. They tell me not to pay. Three years without paying. They say do not pay. Sell the debt to a bank at half the price. They agree. They agree with us on everything. Build the conference hall in Cairo. It cost $300 million. I told them: I will open it with you. They said yes. We sat here in Cairo and talked and it became a grant, without anyone knowing.

I would not like to force the citizens to bear more than our finances allow. As I told you, we have $12 billion in revenue for a population of around 57 million. Salaries are round 13 billion pounds; roughly $4.5 billion, nearly a third of our revenues. I do not want to add to the burden. We will wait for China and see whether they have facilities we can bargain over.

Secretary Baker, Israel's Rabin To Pay Visits

Tripartite Meeting 'Possible'

NC1807124292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jul (MENA)—A responsible Egyptian source has not ruled out the possibility that a tripartite meeting will occur in Cairo between President Husni Mubarak, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

The source said in a statement to MENA that Rabin's visit to Cairo is a working visit, not one of protocol. The source clarified that it will start on Tuesday and has no set time limit.

The source added that Baker's visit to Cairo will start on Wednesday; therefore, a tripartite meeting between President Mubarak, Rabin, and Baker is possible. During the meeting, they are expected to discuss the Middle East peace march and how to remove obstacles before it.

The Egyptian source clarified that Rabin's visit reflects the important role Egyptian-Israeli relations play in realizing peace in the region.

The source pointed out that Israel views these relations as one of the pillars of its efforts to reach agreement with the rest of the Arab parties, secure its peace, and meld into the region, in return for its recognition of Arab political or regional rights.

The source said Egypt will stress during these Egyptian-Israeli talks the bases it believes can establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region, bases that stem from the resolutions of international justice and legitimacy that the international community passed.

The Egyptian source said Egypt will also witness important talks on Wednesday between President Mubarak and Secretary Baker. The talks, he noted, will focus on how to accelerate the peace process and remove the

obstacles facing it in order to achieve a just and comprehensive solution in the Middle East.

According to the same source, Baker's visit to Egypt is crucially timed, for it follows the Israeli elections and the announcement by Rabin's government that it is ready to establish self-rule and halt settlement building. The source said that the announcement contains "encouraging factors" with regard to reaching a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

It is worth noting that Rabin's visit to Cairo is the first visit by an Israeli prime minister to Egypt since September 1986, when Prime Minister Shim'on Peres came to Egypt following the agreement on Tabah.

Analysis Views Mubarak Meeting With Rabin

NC1907154192 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1412 GMT 19 Jul 92

[News analysis by Muhammad Labib al-Najjar]

[Text] The positions of Yitzhaq Rabin's new Israeli Government; his statement after assuming power that he will act to establish peace in the region; his decision to freeze settlement building in the occupied Arab territories; and his announcement that he will seek President Husni Mubarak's assistance in achieving Middle East peace have paved the way for a Cairo summit meeting between President Mubarak and Mr. Rabin.

President Mubarak announced that he is calling on Rabin to achieve a historic Arab-Israeli reconciliation. During his meeting with Alexandria University's faculty members and students yesterday, he asserted that Egypt deals with states, not political parties, in accordance with its principles and its commitment to issues affecting destiny and Arab causes.

On this premise, according to a statement by a responsible source in Cairo, Rabin's visit to Egypt is an indication that Egyptian-Israeli relations will play an important role in achieving regional peace and that Israel considers these relations a basic factor in reaching an agreement with the other Arab parties that will guarantee Israeli security in return for Israeli recognition of Arab rights and the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the region on the basis of international justice and the world community's legitimate resolutions.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is expected to attend part of these meetings after meeting Rabin in Israel. Indeed, U.S. President George Bush has also announced that he will meet with Yitzhaq Rabin in Washington in the next two or three weeks.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has announced that serious proposals will be raised during the Mubarak-Rabin summit. Musa asserted that Egypt will determine its position on these proposals after studying them in the light of agreed-upon peace principles. He said that Egypt will try to help all parties to resume the peace negotiations in Rome at the beginning of September, noting that it will hold talks with the Arab brothers at a meeting in the Syrian capital, Damascus, to ensure that the Arab position during the peace talks will be based on foundations and agreements conducive to a just and lasting peace in the region.

For this reason, Egypt will submit an integrated Arab stance during President Mubarak's discussions with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. This stance will proceed from a thorough Arab notion of Syrian, Jordanian, Lebanese, and Palestinian demands. Egypt will urge Israel to embark on confidence-building measures with each of these states separately, while emphasizing the land-for-peace principle. Egypt is doing this in line with its basic and pivotal role in resolving the Middle East issue.

Israeli Envoy—Rabin 'Eager' for Visit

NC1907214292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2120 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jul (MENA)—Israeli Ambassador to Egypt Efrayim Dowek stated that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to Cairo the day after tomorrow is the first in six years and assumes major importance. He said that after heading the Israeli Government, Rabin was eager for his first foreign visit to be to Egypt to prove the importance Israel attaches to its relations with Egypt and the effective role it plays in advancing comprehensive peace in the region.

Prior to his departure from Cairo Airport this evening en route to Israel, Dowek said that he is departing for Israel on Rabin's request for consultations and an exchange of views about future moves. He expressed his hope that Rabin's visit to Egypt will be successful and have an important effect on the peace process and bilateral relations. He denied that President Mubarak, Rabin, and James Baker will meet during their visit to Egypt, saying that such meetings require advance preparations.

Visit To Focus on Regional Developments

NC2007084492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0736 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jul (MENA)—A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry made a statement today that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's upcoming visit to Cairo tomorrow is extremely important, because it is his first visit abroad since becoming prime minister. It also is the first visit by an Israeli prime minister to Egypt in six years.

The source said this confirms the important role Egypt plays in pushing the peace process forward. It also affirms the new Israeli leadership's stress on cooperating with Egypt to overcome obstacles to solving the Arab-Israeli conflict and on establishing peace in the region, along with improving bilateral relations.

The responsible source said the meeting between President Husni Mubarak and Rabin tomorrow will focus on developments in the region and ways to promote peace efforts. In addition, Rabin will elaborate on the results of his talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and the Israeli viewpoint regarding action to push the peace process forward.

He added that during this meeting, Egypt will confirm its position, which is based on finding a solution to the Palestine question proceeding from the international resolutions and the principle of land for peace.

Observers believe Rabin's objectives in this visit are first and foremost to improve Israel's international image; second, to convince the United States of his shift toward peaceful policies and toward halting settlement building in order to obtain the guarantees amounting to $10 billion to absorb new immigrants; and third, to gain internal support for the new government.

Daily Notes Rabin's 'Twisted Statements'

NC1707081492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0612 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jul (MENA)—AL-AHRAM stresses that the only way to end the confusion between the waves of hope and optimism—created by the Israeli people's decision to bring down Yitzhaq Shamir's government—and the waves of anxiety that have been revived by Yitzhaq Rabin's statements is to declare Israel's definite position on all issues at the negotiations table.

In its editorial today, the paper writes: What causes concern is that Rabin belongs to the hawks wing of the Labor Party, and many observers consider him to be "Torah-centered," exactly like Shamir, and that the only difference between them is the way they address the issues. As evidence of this, they point to Rabin's recent twisted statements about what he called the need to differentiate between political and security settlements.

AL-AHRAM then says: Rabin has appointed Shim'on Peres, who is known for his relative moderation, as foreign minister. Peres said immediately after his appointment that there will be complete coordination between Rabin and him about the issue of continuing the peace process within a specific framework and specific powers, according to which Rabin will be in charge of the negotiations on autonomy in his capacity as defense minister.

The paper adds: This means that Rabin's government will give priority to autonomy as an indication of its serious desire to achieve progress toward peace. The paper then asks: What type of autonomy does Israel want?

Daily on Rabin's 'Media Campaign'

NC1907094592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0607 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jul (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM asked the Arab countries to confront Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's media "peace" campaign, the objective of which is to enhance Israel's image before the outside world and remove the negative features of this image created by the Likud's extremism.

In a commentary in today's issue, the paper notes that Rabin's media campaign is accurately planned, because he affirms his serious readiness to begin peace negotiations with the Arabs on reaching agreements, according to which implementation of the regional compromise principle or the land-for-peace formula would begin.

The paper calls on Arab countries to confront this media aggression by testing the Rabin government and demanding confidence- building measures such as releasing prisoners and detainees, freezing all settlement activities, and lifting economic restrictions on the Palestinians.

Concluding its comment, the paper says that such measures will be viewed as proof of its good intentions and also will contribute toward building confidence between Israel and the Arab sides.

In another commentary in AL-AHRAM, the paper views Rabin's declaration to the Arab capitals—Damascus, Amman, and Beirut—that he is ready to travel there for the sake of peace as an old one, because previous leaders have made such calls, including the likes of Ben-Gurion, who was the first to show his readiness to meet with any Arab leader at any place or time the latter specified.

The paper said the truth lies in the actual execution, although Rabin's call does acquire special meaning or significance because it is the first task he has given his new cabinet. But he did weaken the call when he set the same old principles of refusing to make any concessions on Israel's security, refusing to bargain over Jerusalem because he considers it the eternal capital, and talking about security settlements and absorbing new immigrants.

The paper noted that by stressing these adamant stands, Rabin has not budged from the fixed frameworks of previous governments. He also has not mentioned Resolutions 242 and 338, on which the principle of land for peace is based.

The paper concludes by saying that if Rabin had not done that, the door would have been wide open for the mutual leaderships to meet and the road would have been made easier, even for the Arab side, to think about making concessions or sacrifices in return for establishing true peace and historic reconciliation.

Syria's al-Asad To Meet With President Mubarak

NC1907141692 Paris AFP in English 1354 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, July 19 (AFP)—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad is to meet here with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak before the end of July, a reliable source said Sunday, amid Syrian concern about being left out of Middle East peace talks.

Al-Asad's visit will focus on talks Mubarak is to have Tuesday with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and those he is to have Wednesday with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, the source said.

The media and other sources in Damascus have expressed concern that Rabin, who has urged priority for Palestinian autonomy, will overlook Syrian demands for the return of the Golan Heights. Egypt has welcomed Rabin's statements.

Syria's ambassador to Egypt, 'Isa al-Darwish, told AFP meanwhile that Al-Asad's "visit has been agreed on in principle, but its exact date will be fixed by the two heads of state next week."

He added that the visit was part of continuous efforts to coordinate an approach to the peace process.

Egypt plans to send delegates meanwhile to the Damascus meeting of Arab participants to the peace talks on July 24. They are to discuss issues ahead of the sixth round of Arab-Israeli talks due to take place at an undetermined date in Rome.

Baker is on his ninth trip to the region, while Rabin will be the first Israeli prime minister to visit Cairo since 1986.

The Egyptian leader met al-Asad last in early June in the Syrian capital, Damascus.

Mubarak—Efforts To Solve Libyan Crisis Continue

NC1807163192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] Alexandria, 18 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak stated that Egypt is still exerting efforts to reach a solution to the Libyan-Western crisis, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said after President Mubarak's meeting today with the teaching staff and students of Alexandria University. President Mubarak stated that Egypt has not relinquished its role and is still using its credibility before the world in an attempt to bring both parties' viewpoints closer. He added that in so doing Egypt is respecting international legitimacy and bearing its Arab responsibility. He referred to Egypt's efforts since the start of the crisis in June to avoid escalation, both in terms of averting a military strike against Libya or in softening the Security Council resolution issued on this crisis.

Libya 'Officially Apologized' for Media Campaign

NC1807105492 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 15 Jul 92 p 1

[Report by 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] Libya has officially apologized for the fierce media campaign the Libyan media waged against Egyptian policy on the Lockerbie crisis. According to high-level diplomatic sources in Cairo, Libyan Foreign Secretary Ibrahim al-Bishari officially apologized during a telephone conversation with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. 'Ali 'Abd-al-Salam al-Turayki, the Libyan permanent delegate to the Arab League, also expressed to Musa his country's appreciation of Egypt's role in the Lockerbie crisis and its efforts to avert further international sanctions against Libya. Egypt, the same sources added, accepted the Libyan apology.

Cairo is currently pursuing efforts with various sides in the Libyan-Western crisis to find a peaceful solution before 15 August, the date set for evaluating the results of the sanctions against Libya and the Libyan response to UN Security Council demands cited in Resolution 731, issued 31 January.

Meanwhile, a Libyan diplomat in Cairo denied the existence of any crisis in relations and asserted both countries' eagerness to maintain the fraternal relations between both peoples and leaders. The diplomat pointed out that Libya does not intend to lay off the 1 million Egyptians working in Libya.

Al-Baz Cited on Visit to Libya, Peace Process

NC1907171592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1539 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] Alexandria, 19 Jul (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, stated that his recent visit to the Libyan Jamahiriyah was within the framework of Egypt's solidarity with sisterly Libya in its quest to find a peaceful solution to the Libyan-Western crisis and to avoid any escalation in the sanctions imposed on Libya. He stated that Egypt is eager to maintain the maximum degree of stability in the region.

In a press statement here today, Dr. al-Baz said that there are several indications that undermining stability in the region in any way will constitute a great danger that will threaten all the Mediterranean countries. Thus, Egypt is very much interested in preserving this stability, which requires settling all problems between one or more of the region's countries and countries outside the region before they get worse to ward off the risks, he added.

Asked about Egypt's participation in the Damascus meeting of the Arab parties concerned with the peace process, Dr. al-Baz said: Egypt has welcomed the idea of this meeting, and we were one of the parties that sought to convene such a meeting. We believe that we now face

a new reality following the formation of a new government in Israel. There is a 100-percent change in this government's approach to the peace process, while there is relative change in position, he added.

Dr. al-Baz added: We also believe that there is a change in the Arab position, as the brother Arabs have become capable of viewing the Arab-Israeli conflict objectively and in a deeper and more accurate way. Thus, it is clear that the Arabs are now completely ready to work toward peace, as all the countries neighboring Israel as well as the Palestinian people are now fully convinced of the importance of peace, he added.

Dr. al-Baz pointed out that the peace process should not be a mere response to the Israeli party's initiatives, but the Arabs must come up with their own initiatives and take the lead in defining the Arab views. He added that Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, the PLO, and Egypt are all working in the direction of peace and they maintain an extremely high degree of coordination, consensus, and harmony in their positions. He added: There is no longer any difference over the target, and there is also deep belief that the peace process will benefit both the Arabs and Israel unlike the past, when it was thought that peace was a serious notion that benefited only Israel and not the Arabs. He added: Unfortunately, Israel was not ready for peace in the past, but now there are hints and signs that Israel could be ready to proceed with the peace process, particularly the new Israeli Government's position on settlements and the desire it showed to expedite the negotiations. Dr. al-Baz added: The former Israeli government, as is known and as former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir himself admitted, was forestalling the peace process, and it had a plan to drag the negotiations on for 10 years without going anywhere. He noted that there is a fundamental difference now. The Labor Party's view of the Arab-Israeli concept, he pointed out, proceeds from the premise that should this dispute remain unsolved for long, it will be disastrous for all parties, including Israel. He noted that Likud based its logic on religious grounds and historical claims, while the Labor Party says that it is a question of security and it seeks to preserve Israel's security, because it cannot continue to work for the future while occupying Arab territory.

Dr. al-Baz said that Israel's notion of dealing with the Arabs from the standpoint of military supremacy is not feasible, particularly after the October war proved that military supremacy is a myth and that maintaining it for a long time is even a greater myth. He noted that the Israeli Labor Party believes that under the policy of annexing territories, Israel will not be a Jewish state in 50 years, rather a secular and binational state, even if it manages to expel some Palestinians from the occupied territories. After all, they cannot deport the rest. He noted that if they keep the territories, or most of them, Israel will eventually become a state divided equally, more or less, in terms of population, particularly if we consider the population growth. There are 1.25 million Arabs living in the West Bank, 800,000 in Gaza, and 760,000 in Israel itself, he added.

Dr. al-Baz expressed his belief that the peace process will not be easy and that negotiations will require considerable patience on the part of the Arab parties. He added: As Arabs, we have the means that could enable us to walk into these negotiations on solid ground. He stressed the importance of coordination among Arab parties to reach a unified position through which initiatives could be made to Israel.

Foreign Minister Musa Reviews Regional Relations

PM1707104692 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Jul 92 p 3

[Interview with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by Khalil Matar in New York; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Matar] How have the new international changes and the new world order, which is entering an advanced stage, imposed themselves on you, and how will you deal with them?
[Musa] The international changes have imposed themselves on everyone at international, regional, and even national levels, but at the same time, these levels are imposing themselves and their concepts on the new international order. This international order must not be dictated from above, because it will not succeed that way. There must be some give and take, and there must be some mutual influence. [passage omitted]

[Matar] Often in the past there was interaction between North and South, of which Yugoslavia's membership in the Nonaligned Movement was an example. Such interaction has now diminished. It is difficult now to count on the Nonaligned Movement, if we do not want to say that the movement is already dead. You were one of the first people to call for a redefinition of the Nonaligned Movement. Now, relations within the South and relations between the North's developed countries and the South are being redefined. How do you view that?
[Musa] I still believe that the Nonaligned Movement is incapable of playing a role at this stage, and I say this with great regret. Some people within the movement used to say that it could not be any better, that the movement's members were increasing and that the movement was still the driving force in the world. That is a kind of self-deception. The only way to save the Third World and to crystallize its ideas and prospects is by creating a Third World movement embodying the Nonaligned Movement states. [passage omitted]

[Matar] What about the Arab situation in general?
[Musa] The Arab situation, in conjunction with the Middle East situation, is as follows:

The negotiating parties—or, rather, the parties to the Middle East issue in its general context, including the Golan and Lebanon, and in its special context, which is the Palestinian question—will meet in Damascus to discuss and study the situation in depth. We will meet

during the last week of this month in Damascus, which was decided last week on the sidelines of the Arab League Council's meeting on Lebanon. We decided to meet, not as five parties but as seven parties, by inviting the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] and the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA]. This is a form of Arab coordination regarding the negotiations.

There has been much activity in the Arab world, and meetings have been agreed on. It means that there is now a new dynamism in the Arab world. Furthermore, the Arab League is now playing a greater part, because there is greater understanding at its meetings. Practical issues are becoming clearer. It is important to have a general Arab reconciliation, but the time has not come for that yet.

[Matar] Would it include Iraq?
[Musa] That is necessary. Iraq is a part of the Arab world. The dispute is with the current Iraqi regime, which is why the circumstances are not ripe for such a reconciliation.

[Matar] In other words, Arab reconciliation is subject to a change in the Iraqi regime.
[Musa] There is no need for me to go into details or to be obtrusive in describing the situation, but I do say that there is still great bitterness about what happened, which is why Arab reconciliation has so far not entered the realm of real implementation.

[Matar] This issue has been the subject of many interpretations. Some speak of the need for a change in the Iraqi regime. Some say that certain states are opposed to such change and that at one of the Egyptian-Syrian summits there was opposition to the idea of changing the Iraqi regime by force.
[Musa] We do not interfere in the domestic affairs of any Arab state, and that includes Iraq. We are interested in two main things, as far as Iraq is concerned. The first is preserving Iraq's sovereignty and of the present shape of the Iraqi state. We fully and totally reject any attempt to fragment Iraq. Second, we are all responsible for the Iraqi people. They are Arab people. We are doing, and will continue to do, what we can to help them in their plight.

As far as anything else is concerned, I will say nothing, because I do not want to interfere in domestic affairs or to discuss them in detail.

[Matar] What about the declaration of a Kurdish government in northern Iraq?
[Musa] No, Sir. Iraq's territory as a whole must remain Iraq's territory as a whole.

[Matar] Let us discuss another aspect. Do you believe that Jordan is contributing fully to the boycott process?
[Musa] I have read a number of press statements somewhat indicating this, but I have nothing to confirm or deny it.

[Matar] In other words, there is no change in the Jordanian position that would encourage Egyptian-Jordanian rapprochement?
[Musa] There is cooperation between us in the context of the peace process. This cooperation continues, and we have no reason to say that it does not exist.

[Matar] In the context of the peace process?
[Musa] Yes. This process is of paramount importance.

[Matar] What is the present status of the process?
[Musa] There is some degree of optimism that it will enter a dynamic phase. I take this opportunity to say that I support Rabin's appeal to the Israeli people not to hesitate and not to be afraid of peace.

[Matar] But what Rabin advocates runs contrary to the Arab demands for peace.
[Musa] We are not saying that agreement has been reached. There would be peace tomorrow if that were the case, but we must encourage the positive aspects.

[Matar] How will you tackle the peace call while Rabin remains opposed to a complete halt to building settlements and refuses to give up the Golan?
[Musa] That will be tackled in the negotiations and the active diplomatic contacts to be made by Egypt, other Arab parties, and the United States. [passage omitted]

[Matar] The security settlements, as Rabin calls them, are still an obstacle.
[Musa] To my mind, in my view, there is no difference between one settlement and another, security or ideological. All these settlements are illegitimate.

[Matar] So they are ultimately unacceptable?
[Musa] I do not believe they are acceptable in this form.

[Matar] How would they be acceptable?
[Musa] I do not know.

[Matar] What would the Palestinians agree to in order to reactivate the peace process?
[Musa] This question should be put to the Palestinians themselves. We support the Palestinians' right to a comprehensive Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 borders. [passage omitted]

[Matar] On the question of U.S. aid for Israel and the $10 billion [loan guarantees], as far as you know, do the Americans link this to the security settlements?
[Musa] The clear U.S. view is that building settlements must stop. As far as I know, they have so far not said that they differentiate between settlements. I have not heard that. I have never heard them make such a distinction. They have requested a halt to the building of settlements, and they consider the settlements issue an obstacle on the way to peace. They have not differentiated between one kind of settlement and another. That is my understanding.

[Matar] So the question of the $10 billion is simply linked to a halt to building settlements.
[Musa] Yes.

[Matar] We have heard about an Israeli idea to rent the Golan.
[Musa] No, no, no. We are not real estate brokers. We are talking about principles related to land, peace, and sovereignty, which is quite different from real estate, brokerage, and renting.

[Matar] In other words, nothing short of Syrian sovereignty over the Golan will be accepted.
[Musa] Certainly. [passage omitted]

[Matar] What are the results of your meetings with Iranian officials?
[Musa] Relations are on their way to normalization.

[Matar] Does that mean that all the problems have been solved?
[Musa] No, why should all the problems have been solved? Problems exist between a large number of states. Whatever problems there are can be solved in the context of normal relations between the two countries. Our positions are known. Egypt's policies are known, and so are Iran's policies. The two states can discuss new developments with complete frankness.

[Matar] What about Libya? What point has been reached in solving that problem?
[Musa] We are still working for a solution. In the interest of the brothers in Libya and of commitment to international legitimacy, this problem should not be escalated.

[Matar] The main problem is the question of extraditing the Lockerbie suspects.
[Musa] Yes, that is still the problem, but much can be done in that context.

[Matar] What about outside the context of extraditing the two individuals?
[Musa] Implementing resolution 731.

[Matar] Is there a connection between that and the Libyan form of government?
[Musa] What do you mean?

[Matar] I mean that one of the undeclared demands has something to do with the Libyan form of government.
[Musa] Where is that? It is not in resolution 731 or in any other resolution.

African Petroleum Producers Meet in Cairo 17 Jul

NC1707142092 Cairo MENA in English 1034 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, July 17 (MENA)—The meetings of the 10th session of the African Petroleum Producers Association (APPA) opened here today. The two-day meetings discuss the programme of action for the coming three years, especially regarding cooperation in the petroleum, technical and technological domains along with joint ventures especially in the field of petrochemicals.

Chairman of the current APPA session Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi, minister of petroleum in Egypt, addressed the inaugural session, saying that President Husni Mubarak has always been supportive of the African issues and the common African action.

Dr. al-Banbi said that prime among the problems facing the petroleum industry is the trend towards setting up bigger economic groupings and blocs in Europe and Asia. He added that the end of the cold war and the results of the Gulf war affect energy and petroleum in the world. The minister of petroleum called upon the African countries to assimilate the dimensions of the international changes and work for facing up to them through the most suitable means.

Attending the meetings are the ministers of petroleum of Egypt, Angola, Libya, Nigeria, Congo, Zaire and Gabon together with representatives for Ivory Coast, Algeria, Cameroon and Benin.

Agriculture Minister, U.S. AID Official Meet

NC1707145492 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 17 Jul 92

[From the Press Review]

[Text] AL-JUMHURIYAH reports that Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and agriculture minister, met yesterday with Ronald Roskens, head of the U.S. Agency for International Development [AID], within the framework of Egyptian-U.S. cooperation. They discussed agricultural cooperation projects between Egypt and the United States in the field of research, and the development of production projects that AID is financing through grants and aid totalling $589 million. The paper refers to Wali's statement praising the positive results of cooperation, especially expanding the worldwide cultivation of various fruits and vegetables and developing modern methods to increase the production of wheat, rice, and corn.

Commentary—'No Place' for Saddam on World Map

NC1807173592 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Ahmad al-Qasir commentary: "Honest Arabs Capable of Safeguarding Arab Nation and Pan-Arab Causes"]

[Text] In a desperate attempt to break free of his international, Arab, Islamic, and domestic isolation and to prove to himself that he is still alive and rules Iraq; because he has reached such a state of extreme bankruptcy and panic after the Revolutionary Guards revolted against him and joined Iraq's revolutionaries in their almost two-year battle to remove him and overthrow his regime; and after all his schemes to rebuild his collapsing regime following his defeat have failed, the defeated and disgraceful [al-Ma'ib] [pun on the word al-Mahib, which in Iraq means field marshal] emerged from his underground pit in Baghdad to repeat the same

lies and slogans of which his people and the entire world have tired. He spoke about honor and heroism, which he knows nothing about, and went on, shamelessly, to talk about Arabism, pan-Arabism, Islam, Arab causes, struggle, and hope for the future. The crazy ruler even dared to criticize the honest Arabs who are carrying the banners of real struggle and who are defending the fateful Arab causes at every international forum.

The strange thing is that all these worn-out cards, which he keeps on using because he has nothing else to say to his people on a national occasion, fully incriminate the destroyer [haddam] [pun on the word Saddam] of Iraq and the Arabs and shamefully stain his record. What Arabism or Islam is Iraq's defeated ruler talking about? Has anyone throughout the history of the Arab nation humiliated Arabism and Islam more than the ruler of Baghdad? Who has betrayed the trust of his people, Arabism, and religion and harmed the Arab causes? Has anybody dealt a fatal blow to the Arab nation, torn it apart, and threatened its pan-Arab security more than this man who is today trying to look tough in front of his oppressed people? Does the ruler of Iraq really believe that someone in the Arab world will believe his lies after the entire world, including the Arabs and Muslims, have rejected him and brushed him out of their minds? The international community and the Arab nation decided not to deal with this ruler ever since he committed the crime of the age against defenseless Muslim and Arab people and against all humanity. The kinds of crimes he committed in Kuwait were not committed by Hulegu [Mongol ruler] or the Nazis. Will these lies and critical comments save the hungry people of Iraq from the serious quagmire that this tyrant has put them in? Who gave this person, an outcast of Arab legitimacy, the right to speak for the Arabs when he cannot currently control the Iraqi people who are revolting against him? Did the ruler of Baghdad forget that he denied his people democracy, freedom, and even protests at suffering and hunger, that he is launching a war of starvation against his people to punish them for their supporting the revolutionaries of the uprising, and that he is besieging the revolutionaries in the north and south? Does such a person, who cannot free himself of fear and is annihilating his people who are living under the protection of the UN and Western troops, have a right to demand the liberation of the Arab nation and talk about its causes?

What the destroyer of Iraq must know very well is that such demagogic behavior is fruitless, that there is a new world order, the foundations of which are now being built, and that the age of the people has started after the demise of the age of tyrants. Therefore, there is no place for him on the map of the world and the Arabs. It is the concern of the Arabs and the world in general to save the starving and oppressed people of Iraq from the claws of this murderer, who is holding his people captive inside the walls of his huge prison as a bargaining chip so that the world may pardon him and let him stay in power. Continuing such a terrorist attitude in Iraq will only worsen the sufferings of his people and put them in front of a new ordeal. Any attempt on the part of the Iraqi ruler to play with fire will put the Iraqi Army in numerous dangers.

Let the Iraqi ruler know very well that all his attempts to divert the attention of the starving Iraqi people and Iraqi Army, to which the defeated brought humiliation and disgrace, will never work. Iraq's revolutionary civilians and military will chase him everywhere to finish him off and relieve the world of his evils. As for the Arab nation and its causes, we tell this pygmy and his gang: Enough disgrace. The Arab nation has honest men who are capable of safeguarding its rights and defending its causes and who enjoy the world's respect. Soon the free Iraqi officers will purge the land of the Tigris and the Euphrates and restore to Iraq its shining Arab image. Then all the Arabs will rejoice. It will not be far off.

Mubarak Says Hala'ib Territory 'Our Land'

NC1807154592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1514 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] Alexandria, 18 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak stated that "our right in Hala'ib and Shalatayn" is clear. He added: This is our land. It is Egyptian land, and we will not relinquish a single inch of our soil.

This was stated by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif following President Mubarak's meeting today with the staff and students of Alexandria University.

Al-Sharif said that President Mubarak explained that the phosphate company operating in this area is an Egyptian one operating on Egyptian soil and that there is no need for to mix the administrative and political borders between Egypt and Sudan.

President Mubarak stressed that, in its relations with its brothers, Egypt is making efforts and sacrifices to achieve the best relations, but at the same time, it does not bow or yield.

'Foreign States' Said Supplying 'Extremist' Groups

NC1707154192 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 14 Jul 92 pp 1, 4

[Excerpts] Dr. Yusuf Wali, secretary general of the National Democratic Party [NDP], stated that some foreign states recently supplied extremist groups with automatic weapons. He stated that the situation in Asyut is currently normal, that what happened was a storm in a teacup, and that the media exaggerated it and conveyed a false impression of what really happened.

Dr. Wali stated that security forces are closely and seriously monitoring the gunrunners, who have imported large quantities of weapons. He emphasized the need for collaboration among all popular, executive, and political organizations in dealing with events.

Dr. Wali was addressing the sixth NDP conference in Asyut. The conference was also attended by Awqaf

Minister Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub, Asyut Governor Hasan al-Alfi, and NDP Asyut Secretary Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mushin Salih.

Dr. Wali said the government will firmly oppose anyone who seeks to destabilize the country and undermine its security, adding: All Egyptians—Muslims and Christians—are part of the same nation, which has been able to confront every enemy and aggressor throughout its history due to its national unity. He continued: We all reject what happened in Asyut. The NDP is a religious party that believes the Islamic shari'ah is the primary source of legislation. The state always ensures that its laws conform with the shari'ah. [passage omitted]

Dr. Mahjub announced that a decision has been made to place the governorate's mosques under the control of his ministry. He also said that 20 new mosques will be built in the governorate's towns and villages and that 100,000 [Egyptian] pounds will be donated to the Islamic Center in Asyut. [passage omitted]

People's Assembly Discusses Terrorism Articles

NC1707103892 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] In its session last night chaired by Speaker Ahmad Fathi Surur, the People's Assembly resumed discussion of the remaining articles of the draft law amending certain provisions of the penal and criminal procedure laws and some other laws that aim to combat terrorism.

The amendment stipulates that the attorney general or his representative have the right to issue direct orders on viewing or gathering statements or information dealing with accounts, deposits, guarantees, and access to them if this is necessary to reveal the truth about any of the crimes in the penal law.

Discussing the article that deals with the secrecy of accounts, Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi said there is a great deal of evidence in Egypt to prove that these terrorist groups are largely funded from abroad. He said this applies not only to Egypt but to every place where terrorism is present. He said this article helps to facilitate investigation of crimes of terrorism.

The assembly also approved a proposal inserting an article on repentance. It said it would not press charges against anyone who handed over their weapons or took measures to license them or any explosive devices they may have that are listed in this law within a month of the law going into effect

An assembly majority approved the draft law in its final form. The session was suspended and meetings will resume on Saturday morning.

'Extremist' Statement Vows Continued Violence

NC1907204292 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 15 Jul 92 p 1

[Text] A responsible security source told AL-AHALI that the security forces have intensified their campaigns in Dayrut, and they conduct sweeps in the village three times a day. The security forces have so far conducted 50 campaigns in 20 villages and ranches in the Dayrut district in implementing orders to capture the remnants of extremists. This follows important information obtained from Jamal Haridi, commander of the military wing of the extremist groups. These campaigns resulted in the arrest of 50 members.

Counselor Muhammad Kamil, head of the prosecution office in Asyut, said that the number of defendants referred to the prosecution office so far totaled 33, and they are charged with instigating riots and arson but not killing. They have been imprisoned for 15 days pending interrogation.

The Islamic group in Asyut released a statement following the detention of Jamal Haridi stressing that its members will pursue the same course of violence as the government. The statement said: We will respond to detention by assassination and to torture by explosions. A spokesman for the group told AL-AHALI that the arrest of Jamal Haridi will not affect the group's position. The government already detained Safwat 'Abd-al-Ghani, Mahmud Shu'ayb, and Ahmad 'Abduh, which only increased our resolve to pursue our path.

Libya

Editorial Views 'Truth' About Arabs

LD1807095292 Tripoli JANA in English 1807 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Tripoli, Nasir [July] 17 JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Under this heading, the AL ZAHAF AL AKHDAR newspaper today wrote an editorial which went as follows:

'Us Libyans no longer trust the Arabs. The truth about the Arabs is that they were hypocritical towards us. They deceived us. The truth about the Arabs is that they beseiged us, this is the reality.

All the Arabs are as if asleep, this is still another fact. However, this sleep was never natural because sleep normally comes when one is very tired. But the Arabs have never tired even until now for their own benefit. This is the truth. Thus, the Arab sleep has never been natural, but has been deliberately inspired by the collaborators and the crusader west.

All the Arabs are asleep, all the Arabs, while in their artificial sleep, were organised into trade unions. The Arabs signed up to join the political parties in a typically Western manner. This can only lead us to see that this was merely because the west desired this, and imposed

this desire on all the Arabs. Thus, the majority have been organised into trades unions and have signed up in political parties.

So now we pose a question: 'What did the Arabs do?' Where did they ever influence events? Yet, the answer is of no worth. Thus, the result is zero. This is the truth.

Thus, if the Arab citizen absented himself with the build up of events and by allowing sleep to overpower him, then he has become a lifeless entity which blows whichever way the wind blows. Indeed, this is the state the majority of Arabs are in.

Thus, whom do we, the Libyans, approach, while we are facing this crisis with the West? If the majority are submissive to others' will and are seeped in corruption, then how do we manage, whom can we approach, and whom can we call upon when the majority are asleep?

If the majority have dubbed Libya as the bastion of the Arabs and the land of the Arabs, the only country which doesn't require visas or passports from all, and is the only country where all can enter as if entering any street in their own country, we wonder until when are we to endure these slumbering masses for whom our guidance, our appeals and even our cries were of no use.

The newspaper continued, we said that all will soon realise that our feeling that things would erupt and that they would feel the flame reach their fortress. However, we found all looking at the fire as if it had nothing to do with them. So, what can the Libyans do to these slumbering masses? What does an electrical wire do when it touches a living entity? The Libyans must now be as if an electrical wire which falls onto the sleeping masses. The borders which the Libyans did away with without doubt will be drawn up again and all will be stunned by the barriers which will arise. Because 'easy come, easy go', while if one struggles and sacrifices for something than it will not be lost so easily.

Libyan treatment of the Arabs will undoubtedly change and they will treat the Arabs just as they were treated by the Arabs. The Libyans will treat them just like the Europeans treat them when the Arabs wash the Europeans' plates in their restaurants and cafes, where dignity quickly brushes away all sleep from their eyes.

So, please accept our apology, oh Arabs, because we found out that you aren't agreeable to the great Libyan slogans.

Please accept our apology, O slumbering Arabs, we discovered that we can turn to Europe and open new vistas with them and can benefit from Europe's scientific and technological capabilities. Excuse us, O Arabs, we should caution you that we are made of steel and have the highest dignity and we won't kneel. Indeed, you will regret the way you treated us. Please let us apologize for cautioning you that we are not like you to be enticed by loans and loan interest rates. This is because we don't have rulers who siphon off part off these loans for themselves, because we are a people that rules itself and is answerable to itself. Therefore, we are not dependent on loans which we see proliferating throughout the Arab world.

AL-JAMAHIRIYAH Views Tripoli Newspaper Item

LD1807214192 Tripoli JANA in English 1655 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] [no dateline as received]—In the news column, the "AL-JAMAHIRIYAH" newspaper published an article on July 15th, which said "We hosted them in the Al Mehari and the grand hotel. They visited the great man made river and said that it was a great achievement deserving worthy recognition. They applauded under the tent awnings and said that they would die for you, Oh leader, because you are a symbol of the nation and a builder of its future. Indeed, they gave us numerous promises yet did little in practice.

Tripoli, "AL KHAYMAH", they said hosted us, greetings to this. However, this was merely talk which came to nothing and was of no avail. Tripoli informed me that it discovered the reality of those who descended upon it from everywhere. They were the people of our Arabness who were imaginative in their use of words.

They were the Arabs, which Tripoli, "AL KHAYMAH" said were witnesses who apparently didn't see anything. That they didn't see the tyranny of the oppresors, as if they are incapable of hearing or seeing what is happening to their nation, the destruction and ruin which has befallen it. They didn't listen to Yitshaq Shamir, nor those before him, who were saying that that the nation is dead and is incapable of doing anything except to issue statements and to give short-lasting, oratorical speeches.

Tripoli, "AL KHAYMAH", tells us that they bitterly received them and warned them of the impending danger. However, they responded with terrifying silence to the Zionist gangs while they were pounding Lebanon every day and were killing and dispersing the Palestinians.

Tripoli, "AL KHAYMAH", says that it is well-meaning of those who tell you about the crimes committed by Arabs against Arabs. This can best be seen when the Arabs were the first to respond to the Security Council resolution which imposed a siege on the Jamahiriyah. They were the first to refuse to allow the Great Jamahiriyah's civilian airlines to land in their airports.

Tripoli, "AL KHAYMAH", tells us that these Arabs are dead when it comes to decisive and vital matters, such as meetings and oratory festivals. It also tells us that these Arabs forgot the Jamahiriyah's stances when it leaned towards Arab causes and all which is pan Arab. Stances it pursued to such a point that it was relegated to the extremist camp and was even identified with the terrorists at another time.

Tripoli, "AL KHAYMAH", says that we welcomed them, afforded them warm hospitality and we gave them

everything we have assuming that when we needed them we would find them. However, those we were calling were not alive and if we called the dead they would have responded before these Arabs.

Tripoli, "AL KHAYMAH" says that we can't be blamed this time because we knew what was the right course of action to take, a course which would guarantee our interests because nothing can be forthcoming from these Arabs. They were brought up on fear and subservience and they acceded their minds and exported their ideas. Thus, some have Francophile ideas, others, American, still others Westernised. We asked them: "Why did you do this?" they replied that this is what the Government wants. If we contravene the Government"s dictates then the prison gates are opened to us.

Tripoli, "AL KHAYMAH", inform the knowledgeable ones of the Arab mentality. It tells us about the new world arrangement, about international legitimacy and tells the Arabs how the West sees them as animals and not as human beings. The human beings for the West, are the Zionists. So, O Libyans, it is time for you to do your own thing.

Saddam Gives Address on Revolution Anniversary

JN1707103592 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0703 GMT 17 July

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn on the 24th anniversary of the 17-30 July revolution; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O great Iraqi people. O sons of the glorious Arab nation: Today we mark the birth anniversary of the blessed revolution, the great July revolution. Marking its birth, we recall the chapters of its march and the obstacles and dangers it has faced along its path. We recall the lessons derived from every chapter, as well as the cultural and spiritual achievements that have been scored during its march. We also recall the duties and tasks awaiting us. When we recall all that, we recall with sublime humility and appreciation the righteous martyrs of the great march of this revolution, the martyrs of great Iraq, and the mujahidin of the Ba'th Party—the leader of the march—for whose souls we ask God's forgiveness. We also recall the Arab nation's martyrs and Palestine's martyrs in the land of stones. As we do that, we realize, beyond any doubt, that a march without martyrs cannot be a special march, and without martyrs a revolution cannot have the scent of musk or the vigor and glory of the reward for faith and certainty.

When we recall landmarks along the march of the revolution and contemplate its meanings and banners—or, rather, its great banner, the banner of God is great [Iraq's flag]—24 years after its birth, it comes to mind on such an occasion to speak of one aspect of the revolution, as well as its concepts and aims. What are they? What is the most urgent matter raising a question as to the significance of the revolution for our souls and lives? To answer this question, we say that a revolution, among other things, represents a unified determination to serve the people and the nation to enable them to attain a higher qualitative level, so that they can play their role and perform their mission. This determination must be based on the certainty that the path to this accomplishment, having reviewed all alternatives, cannot be achieved without changing the political system and all that is related to the society and the state as a whole, in terms of systems that are part of the factors responsible for the negative situation that prevailed before the dawn of 17 July and before 1500 on 30 July 1968.

The decision, as was firmly established at the time, had been for change to take place in accordance with what was scheduled at 0300 on the morning of 17 July and at 1500 on 30 July. The ideology of change used to spread and to last through genuine and great interaction between what represented the hopes of the society of faith, which did not seek to copy any of the situations existing in any system in the world or in any Arab country at the time, and the part of the nation's heritage which left brilliant landmarks in the past until it became the most important proof of this nation's justice and fairness. The part of the nation's heritage also proves the greatness of the effective role based on our great faith in the action of the message, which is deeply embedded in our people's prerevolution militant history of rejecting what should be rejected, not to mention the people's aspirations, that were translated by a common desire to attain what is acceptable, even though the people were not able to translate it into precise legislation in the practical description of its terms.

Faced with this state of affairs and after the eruption of the revolution, we had to depend on the yardsticks of a faithful mind and conscience, but only after seeking God's help to reject what should be rejected, through explicit legislation, and to accept what should be accepted with legislation constantly reflecting the revolution's laws—but maintaining an unceasing readiness to readjust any legislation the revolution may issue which fails during implementation, or which time proves to be no longer suitable.

Rule was for the majority; rule which was deeply entrenched within minds and consciences. The leadership's right to undertake initiatives and carry out the role of a vanguard, as well as the people's right to voice their opinion, were the real criteria along the road to completing specific tasks outlined in the revolution's defined program, the readjustment of any of these tasks, or the cancellation of any of their detailed and practical aspects in our daily lives. This is accompanied by a comprehensive historical concept of the relationship that should exist between today and tomorrow. The most important things of which we are proud in our policy, beside our belief in God's judgment, have been our sincere intentions and deeds and that which we proclaim in the service of our nation and people.

While some believed that the components and temptations of power and life would make us give up our principles, objectives, and slogans that were proclaimed by the revolution's course, we, contrary to their belief, did not give up the vivid linkage between the glorious past of our nation and the spirit of its message on the one hand, and the present on the other. Nor did we keep the effect of the revolutionaries' spirit outside the circle of power, and make their principles, goals, and slogans a sheer transitory heritage of the past and mere slogans voiced about the state and government. Before the revolution, we did not behave like those who did not hold the reins of power and who only had a desire to rule. Instead, we behaved like people seeking only to achieve the high goals of our message through power. This has been our high ambition in terms of quality and degree, whether in the behavior of the revolutionaries or the ethics of commitment toward one another, and in front of and toward their people and the sons of their nation, under the watch of Almighty God, who never tires.

Those whose faith was not based on revolutionary action committed an error on the morning of 17 July and the afternoon of 30 July. He, whose faith was as deep as the

achievement of the revolution for these principles, continued to carry the banner, just as the missions carried the Islamic message through wounds to promote it through faith, and to raise its banner of faith in principles and a great role—wounds that perfumed the blood of our forefathers in the battlefields. The perfume of this blood was also smelled by those moved by the meanings of that large-scale sacrifice. So, faithful people came from all parts to embrace its banner and go forward chanting God is great.

We say: As this happened in the past—despite differences between the situation then and now—the sincerity in carrying and declaring the message, and the honest endeavor to apply it after the revolution, has deepened our wounds and those of our people. This has also deepened the wounds of those who were struggling for the revolution before it took place.

The deeper the wound, the greater the spirit. The larger the number of those wounded and those who fell—under the banner of faith, the banner of God is great, on this land, the land of our fathers and grandfathers, the land of the Arab nation and the great Iraq—the greater their reward from God and the closer or more identical their position to the position of their forefathers under the leadership of Prophet Muhammad and his companions, the caliphs, and the righteous ancestors who followed them. The principles of the revolution are so sacred that those who fell for their sake became martyrs on account of their honest determination and sublime faith.

O great people, o sons of the Arab nation, if we want to speak about the details of our people's achievements and compare them with what was accomplished before the revolution, we will speak for a long time and you will listen for a long time as well. If we want to describe the state of our people before the revolution, we will speak for a long time without giving enough description in such a speech. Suffice it to say that all those who were more than 10 years old before the revolution, or those who were at this age during the first years of the revolution, can recall their state of affairs in all fields and compare it with their state of affairs today. Thus, they can present to the generation, which did not experience the state of affairs before the revolution, an accurate description of our situation in the past and now. However, taking only an aspect of the accomplishments would not make them look as great as they should. Therefore, we should always judge these accomplishments in light of their great meanings and outcome. Our state of affairs, role, and influence are now being judged in comparison with our role and degree of influence before the revolution, whether on the Arab and international level or on the level of self-satisfaction and our role within the Iraqi homeland.

On this occasion dear to the people, doors of pride and glory which were not opened before, have been opened; Iraq's jihad and role have provided evidence of the greatness of the nation and its capability to play its role and to offer sacrifices for its sake; and the past incidents, which were taken as an example, have become very distant in terms of time, considering the dreadful paradox between the past and present of our nation regarding the history and activity of this age.

The most important thing we can promise our people is that our determination to always be with our people remains the same as it was at the very beginning, and in fact is even stronger. While living with the poor and watching them closely, the spirit of our entity is inseparably linked to their aspirations in a manner that will comprehensively and profoundly rid them of any unnecessary and illegal burdens of life. We will remember and not forget the people's slogans against colonialism and in pursuit of freedom and honorable work before the revolution. Such a thing, and the examples we offer in every domain, will be the pledge we emphasize to the Arab nation and our faithful people along every path that brings the Arab nation further glory, identifies it as the nation of the mission—missions, really—and gives it all that brings it closer unity and renders this unity with genuine human and pan-Arab duty, comprising all the principles in which the great Ba'th believed and all that is inspired by the experience of struggle and the opportunities that can be seized in today's world.

Brave Iraqis, glorious Iraqi women, O Arabs—bearers of the message of pledge and principles for the sake of your glorious Arab nation and for the sake of humanity, wherever you are, when societies emerged they needed a concept, a course, and an instructor to perform their collective duties. They matured to comprehend their role on earth in a disciplined and enlightened manner. Since then, will and personal judgments clashed, and courses, concepts, and positions collided. In the same manner as the devil appeared beside man as an enemy tempting him along the road to misguidance, contrary to God's orders to man, injustice and oppression clashed with claims of justice and fairness. This led to revolutions, and each had his way. God supports those who believe in Him. The most important thing to a group confronted by claimants, once convinced of the soundness of their general course, was ascertaining the truthfulness of the claimants and the soundness of the course stemming from their concept.

The most important thing to the soundness of the course was striking that indispensably precise balance between application and the origin of the concept and its principles. This is called adherence to the constants of the concept and its living reflection in application, or the so-called principle of behavior, in whose light this or that stand is termed principled. But, if the constants of the concept are not reflected in the course and behavior, then this or that stand will be deemed unprincipled.

This exists on the one hand. On the other hand, upon defining the course of action and distributing roles and duties, there should be a balance between principled commitment and the so-called flexibility of an idea; that is, its ability to perceive changes in life. Such a perception should be expressed through means benefiting the course of action

and distribution of duties. It should not lead to the exclusion or abandonment of principled constants. The most important criterion that makes those concerned confident that perception of new ideas does not lead to the abandonment of constants, is whether the course of action as a whole pushes principles closer to realization or whether they are moving in different directions. At any rate, the outcome of a stage should be viewed within the framework of the aspired outcome, which means that principles should be constantly pushed forward by gains and sacrifices toward more loftiness and glory, and should consolidate the believers' firm faith that they are right. As a result, this transfuses new faithful blood into the carriers of principles who firmly believe in the superiority of these principles. If they do not believe in the absolute superiority of these principles, at least they should believe in their relative superiority compared with other ideas or courses of action proposed as an alternative in certain surroundings.

For the past 24 years, have the principles of the revolution proven the soundness of the idea and the course of action within their general framework? The most important aspect of this general framework is reflected in the sincere intentions toward serving the people and nation, and a readiness to bear the heaviest sacrifices with patience and perseverance, accompanied by a perception of changes with a view toward developing the course of action and effecting a balance between principles and practices in the interest of constants and principles. Has the revolution changed society in a profound and comprehensive fashion for the better, on the basis of the principles of jihad and struggle, and on the basis of the idea that the future is more important and more extended than the present—irrespective of how long the present generation or generations live? Have the faithful's calls been sincere? Have they been loyal to this call?

All these questions about principle, work, the honesty of the call, the soundness of constant principles, the elevation of man in a sound balance between the material and moral aspects and between nationalism, humanitarianism, and patriotism, which constitute the basic pillar of the constants of our call, are answered by a fair vision coupled with a stable soul and a scientific argument over the past 24 years. Only then will the faithful realize the high place occupied by the great Iraqi people—a place which most probably will lead to a prominent place in the hereafter for those chosen by God. They will also realize the effect of this national, humanitarian status in our nation and the world at large. From it and by it, the kind of faith is measured—a faith the honor of which should not be parted by those who are given it by God, as well as the patience and jihad needed to preserve it.

All calls that are in general harmony with the dimensions and goals of our methodical thought will not incorporate the slogan of jihad for principles raised on the top of the highest banner with opulence. Even economic prosperity cannot be achieved unless the call becomes stable and unless it becomes reality taken for granted in its perimeter.

This was in harmony with all the great heavenly and earthly calls, just as they are in harmony with ours now, although every case of the majority, which are chosen for the purpose and intention of the call, have become, even in the material side of life, undoubtedly better than the majority's situation before the revolution.

Thus, this is the way the glorious Iraqi men and women should view their role, method, the present and the needed patience and sacrifices, and the future, which is certainly guaranteed for them and their coming generations, in addition to the message's national and human role, without making the presence a basic pillar extending into the heart of the future, so as to guarantee it if the patience of the sons of the present and their sacrifices are balanced with the sweeping dangers and man's construction duties and the pillars of life in his perimeter.

Brothers, great people, when the Islamic call was launched under God's Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and blessings be upon him, there were two empires surrounding the Arab lands which were competing for interests at the expense of the Arab lands and their homeland, and at the expense of humanity and the principles of monotheism, and the sound values of mankind. In these two empires, there were rich people, living in opulence as one of the bad signs of what they were. In and around these empires, poor people constituted the overwhelming majority. The affluent minority had built its opulent edifice at the expense of the overwhelming majority. The companions of God's Prophet, including the orthodox caliphs who assumed the trust of the leadership and the protection of the principles after the prophet, were not tempted by the opulence of the affluent but sided with the opposite side to implement their principles. This was also the case with Christ, may God's peace be upon him, and with all the prophets and the messengers and those who had great humanitarian and social missions to carry out.

As for the opulence which was affiliated with the minority and which has nothing to do with the attainment of happiness for all, it cannot be but the opulence of the minority at the expense of the majority's happiness. It cannot but be established on their remains and that of humanity. This is how the West founded the prosperity of its people at the expense of the overwhelming majority during the old colonialist era. It is now basing the opulent edifice enjoyed by the minority at the expense of the majority of the world's people, and of humanity, in the era of the new imperialism.

The emulation of the corrupt cannot be our course. Proceeding downward is the road taken by those who are defeated. Our course is always uphill, a course that attains man's happiness through honest national action, with sweat and construction in the midst of the majority and for their sake. Work and construction for the sake of the majority, in accordance with our course, cannot be anything but fair, sincere, and honest, and cannot but achieve economic prosperity as an inevitable result

enabling one to remain firmly committed to the course of principles and struggle for the attainment of the objectives of this course. This course must implemented with a sincere policy along the great course of these principles and struggle where there will be a balance between materialism and spiritualism, between the needs of this generation and providing a guarantee for coming generations and the national needs and pan-Arab requirements, and where there will be a balance between the national and the humane, between what is modern and the great heritage, and where there will also be a balance between slogans and steps, between objectives and policies. With God's help, all of these will be incorporated into one state within the great call, and the action of those who join it will be blessed with God's help.

O Iraqis, the carriers of the banner of all banners; O Arabs, oil in Iraq is part of our national wealth, and oil in the Arab homeland is supposed to be part of the Arab wealth. Given its well-known economic characteristics, its effect on human life, and the relationship between material and spiritual things—in accordance with the laws of age—wealth can bring about happiness in life. But, has oil brought happiness for the Arabs? For us, the concept of happiness cannot be materialized if this happiness is not mixed with pride and clarity of man's influential role. Dignity cannot be maintained on the level of the state without safeguarding sovereignty and preserving the right of choice and decisionmaking. Has this been seriously achieved in the nation where oil is influential? Was our Arab oil really a living part of our wealth? Because of the circumstances of the stage and the degree and kind of backwardness, the Arabs, who own oil, have been confused between considering oil part of a living wealth or just a possession that might be a burden on them, if it is not a liberated method in their hand.

For oil to be part of a living wealth, its owners should possess a certain degree of development, sovereignty, freedom, fairness, principles, and ethics. Oil should be viewed beyond its limits on earth and its narrow material influence on man's connection with it on all national, pan-Arab, and human levels. All this should be accompanied by resolute work to build edifices in all fields of life that are fortified with great principles. Then, oil alone cannot be the wealth of the Arabs. The basis of Arabs' wealth will be their hard work, sacrifices, and giving. Oil will then become a living wealth after it has become a living part of the outcome of practical work, jihad, patience, and sacrifices.

But if the Arabs continue to view oil as a wealth in itself, even when foreigners control it directly or indirectly, and even if they are mentally, bodily, and spiritually inactive and fail to do their duty in terms of productive work and great values, and are immersed in their inaction and the margin of corruptness, which is sought for them by people who would benefit from this situation as a result of oil returns, then oil, in this case, would not be wealth. Rather, it would be a burden for mankind, its principles, values, and faith. It would also be a corrupting element in the link between mankind and the Almighty, as well as a shackle and a bond for the people in charge of it.

This is the oil situation in the Arab homeland. One of the bad influences we have mentioned is that the growth of oil has obstructed the growth of the foundations of sovereignty, security, freedom, work, creativity, and the intimate link among the sons of the one nation. Oil has also violated, through lethargy and the policies of the covetous foreigner, mankind's humaneness and perverted its inborn purity and good deeds, which were inherited from its ancestors.

Oil will become a living part of wealth and another means to create wealth in its large, comprehensive, and deep meaning, and to achieve real happiness, only when we realize the concepts that are opposite of the concepts we just criticized. In other words, the nation will not achieve self-fulfillment and guarantee its future, happiness, security, and sovereignty until oil is utilized to serve these aims and until oil is a living part of the wealth created by a faithful, honest, and immune person in accordance with scientific, academic, and conscious criteria. For this also to happen, the foreigner should not be the master, but only a partner in commercial transactions, while sovereignty over oil should be for the kinfolk of the land. Also, the Arabs as a nation should not forget the principles of the slogan "The Poor Have a Right to the Money of the Wealthy," as ordered by God Almighty and as declared by the principles of the one nation. This should also remain a slogan for our nation, while dealing with the larger human universe, according to God's instructions and the principles of its national and human jihad and struggle.

O great people, you have been hurt by part of the negative aspect, which we have criticized and which has hurt some Arabs. But the hurt differs, for example, from that of the Gulf Arabs. As we have previously said, the foreigners exploited the presence of Arab oil in some small nations and in small Arab countries and corrupted them by flooding them with oil revenues and stripping them of all faith, virtue, and work. Because of oil, the foreigner imposed himself on nations' distinguished populations in their perimeters, foremost of which are Iraq's people, whom it flooded with poverty and renewed problems until it limited their movement and paralyzed their role, creativity, and effect.

When the great July revolution erupted, these phenomena and concepts were clear in our consciences and minds, and although they were not so deep and comprehensive, they were enough, due to the honesty of will, principle, and faith, to do what they have done in freeing the authority's hand and mind and saving the state from the restrictions of the foreigners. Therefore, the nationalization of oil was the first decisive battle on the way to attaining the great concepts for which we are struggling.

Part of the foreigners' role in the confrontation with Iran in the second al-Qadisiyah and in the foreigners' aggression against us in the Mother of Battles was not only

revenge against us for our past acts to liberate our people and distance the foreigners' illegitimate interests from the Arab homeland and not only a decision to confront the meanings and slogans on our path to blunt their meanings, but were also aimed at enabling the foreigners to return and settle in our homeland so that we would become the foreigners in it. They also wanted to realize their evil intentions by flooding our people with poverty and problems, impairing their systems, and preventing them from achieving freedom, sovereignty, and happiness—goals which can be achieved only through faith, economic prosperity, and scientific progress, which make wealth part of wealth and not a substitute for it.

The foreigner, to harm our Arab brothers and other foreigners who have oil and some mineral resources, flooded them until he paralyzed the actions of faith, man, and principles. He did not flood them with poverty, as he did others, but flooded them with luxury. He distanced them from their role by creating problems that impaired their systems and paralyzed their movement forward.

The foreigner wants, through the circumstances he created for you, to return as your master so that you abandon your morals and nationalism for a state of obedience, subservience, poverty, and problems. But the insignificant and narrow-minded foreigner will be accursed and disappointed. God is great.

Brothers, it will be possible for us to foil what we have mentioned about the aims of the foreigner if we transform oil into part of our wealth and if we no longer view it as others have viewed it; that is, as representing all of our wealth. The sure road to this objective is sustained, constructive work, coupled with other known routes. And so you find that in spite of the burdensome siege and the constant preoccupations by the foreigner, its agents, and its hirelings, we are progressively and continually creating job opportunities through giant projects. Work inspired by faith is akin to true, faithful jihad. It cleanses the hearts of those whose hearts need purification. It also builds character and the hearts and minds of the faithful and makes capable arms even more muscular. It also lays foundations for true patriotism and morals of the kind that takes sturdier root in the heart, mind, and conscience. It also helps underscore your effective role on a greater and more continuous scale in your pan-Arab environment. It also brings forth your entitlement to liberation and the humanitarian role toward those who have been on the receiving end of the tyrant's injustice. God is great.

Faithful Arabs, some politicians, writers, journalists, and analysts make a mistake when they promote prevalent notions which they want to take the place of a more comprehensive analysis by saying that the Arab state of affairs is worse now than it was before the aggression. We would emphasize that the official Arab state of affairs, in reality, was even worse before the 30- state aggression, and those who participated in the overt treason with the alliance of the evil foreigners were, in reality, traitors before this, and that the cover under which they had been hiding had facilitated for them and their masters the mission of carrying out roles that were boring through the spirit of the nation inflicting a deep wound, before the nation's body and soul bled. The covert, subversive role is far more dangerous than the open role.

Those traitors have played their role in all fields by weakening the nation by upholding slogans that have great, sound, and sacred significance. Some of them raised false revolutionary and pan-Arab sologans to cover their true treasonous anti-Arab nature. They harmed the revolutionary and pan-Arab principles in a way which affected those who upheld them sincerely and encouraged some of them to refuse to uphold these principles due to the intermingling of slogans with some people who do not believe in them. Some of them upheld the slogan of Islam, but, in fact, they harmed Islam after they wanted to turn the Islam of revolutions, justice, glory, strength, and sovereignty into a religion serving the American strategy, and into a tool that would enable their masters to have control over the Muslim qiblah and holy places in darkness. Some of them used to cover the wolf's claws with a silk glove so as to appear a meek lamb and a good man. By this, they did more harm to the nation than was the case when they flashed the jackal's teeth to suck the blood of Iraqis, the representatives of the nation, and the upholders of its banners.

Which is better for the nation? Was it to have the leading financiers, who were described as decisionmakers, meet at the summit of Baghdad of Arabism in March 1990, but extend no serious aid to the Arabs' great intifadah in Palestine and the brave stone mujahidin, to have them frustrate the Arabs, harm the intifadah materially and morally due to the actual undeclared abandonment of it, and to have them confuse colors and titles to a point where it has become difficult to distinguish the pan-Arab and nationalist people from the slaves of the foreigner? Or is it better for the nation to have everyone appear as he really is with all the other facts surrounding him, which used to be hidden, so that the people can play their role in decisionmaking?

For example, the al-Sabah family, by its current disgraceful actions against the Arabs and Arabism and against Palestine and the Palestinians, has exposed its true nature. When they allowed some Arabs, including the Palestinians, to reside in Kuwait in the past, then this did not take place as a result of pan-Arab sentiments, faith in pan-Arabism, and as a response to the principles of Islamic brotherhood, or for the purpose of supporting the Palestinian people. Rather, it was, to exploit the Arabs in works the Kuwaitis themselves were unable to carry out.

Therefore, it is the interest and not the principle. The facts have been exposed now. They have become unable to hide these facts under any cover. For example, they, along with their allies in the Gulf, have refused to assist an educational activity for Arab students in the occupied territories with only $40,000 that it was suggested be

shared by all who attended a recent conference in an Arab capital. Each country's share would not have exceeded $2,000. Only $2,000 would be the contribution of al-Sabah clan in the entity they are ruling. Is this better for genuine revolutionary Arab development and for a sincere Arab jihad? Or is it better that the treacherous and corrupt action take place without being hidden under cover of courtesy and indulgence? The thief does not expose himself unless he is uncovered. The Mother of Battles came to expose the traitors, each in his position, reality, and connections, and to expose the behavior of everyone to the sons of the nation. Moreover, the rulers of Saudi Arabia hid their outrageous action by bringing the forces of polytheism and deception to the land of the faith, the message, and the qiblah under their pretext of driving the Iraqi forces from Kuwait. Now they can find nothing to cover the ugliness of their deed, not even a worn-out dress, after our heroic and militant forces left Kuwait. They began to aggress every day against the people of Iraq maliciously and wantonly. Even the U.S. espionage planes, called U-2's, daily take off publicly from their airports in the land of Najd and Hejaz to aggress against the people of Iraq by spying on them from their own airspace.

What the ruler of Saudi Arabia did before that was apparently similar in its deception and aggressiveness, but not everything he had done was exposed in the past. As for now, and after his aggression and aggressiveness continued against the militant people of Iraq who are the brothers of the people of Najd and Hejaz in blood, religion, and pan-Arab affiliation—the latest of these practices was the mistreatment of Iraqi pilgrims to the sacred house of God and the violation of their rights—and his continued plotting against the Arabs and Muslims, particularly against the Palestine question and the stone mujahidin, this ruler of Saudi Arabia has been exposed to the Muslims and Arabs, as well as to the faithful Muslim Arab people in Najd and Hejaz.

When these proud people, the people of the Koran and descendants of Muhammad Bin-'Abdallah, God's peace and blessings be upon him, and inheritors of the mission, take their turn, they will not accept such humiliation. Every day they see American forces on their pure soil and hear news of American planes taking off from the holy land to attack the people of Iraq and their security and to violate the sacredness of its sovereignty.

Is it not better that the difference be made clear between the traitorous jackal and the meek lamb? Let the people of dear Egypt know what role they should play toward a ruler who betrayed all the meanings of nationalism, pan-Arabism, and religion.

O zealous sons of the Arab nation: Yes, it is better for us to see the traitorous and treacherous individual exposed than to let him eat into our bones and flesh by other means. It is better for us to see the colors as they truly are, and to see the reality of every individual, so as to choose our path before our spirits and minds bleed before our hearts and feet as a result of the explosion of the mines planted by those who desecrated the dear land of the house, the house of our nation which God has honored by giving it the Koran, virtue, jihad, and justice.

No jihad can take its proper course or be pursued properly without sufficient clarity. Now, after this clarity has been achieved, go to jihad, brothers. Jihad has no meaning before each cleans his own home. Let the beginning be with the traitors who have become a heavy disgrace to the nation and a disgrace to their peoples. God is great.

O free men in the nation of Arabs, O Iraqis, on the 23d anniversary, a year ago, we explained to you how the stage that preceded that day had exhausted some of the ways, expressions, and formulas of democratization regarding one aspect of constructing the institutions and approach of the revolution. Responsibility dictated, consequently, that we declare our resolve to give more opportunities to form new parties, pass a new press law, and draw up the constitution, which was discussed by the people, as well as the rest of political, professional, and union democratic institutions and people's councils in early 1990, in line with a democratic and broad discussion. The constitution was discussed by the Council of Ministers and then the National Assembly, which was elected democratically according the nation's will. The assembly endorsed it according to the formula it referred to the Revolution Command Council.

We said that we will put the constitution to a direct public referendum before it is enacted. As you are well aware, the most important thing that preoccupies our minds is to see the pledge made to the people and the nation's sons take the form of strong convictions and the corresponding principled and ethical commitments. This has been our course from the outset.

Actually, we have issued the party law, including new principles and contents. We have also discussed the press law with great care, and it will become legal soon, God willing. We had previously discussed the draft constitution, as I have already said, after all stages were discussed and endorsed on all levels. What remains is for it to be legalized by the Revolution Command Council, in its capacity as the higher authority in the country, after being put to a public referendum. After an in-depth discussion by the leadership, we found that the circumstances call for additional unhurried discussion.

The reason thus far preventing us from adopting the new constitution, which we promised would substitute for the constitution in force, is the international and domestic political situation. The aggressive allied armies realized their long-standing desire when they found some of those who are lacking in patriotism and faith as well as those who proved to be traitors in the north of the homeland or those who deviated from the path. The aggression states harbored the miserable and lowly idea that these traitors and misguided people would be able to achieve what these states failed to achieve through war during the 30-state aggression.

This situation has put us in a position in which we found ourselves compelled to carefully ponder the national results which are contingent upon the issue of the referendum to be held on the constitution if our people in two or three governorates, out of the 18 governorates that make up Iraq, are prevented from taking part in the referendum.

Even though we have not settled our position on this issue once and for all, and it is still under continuous discussion, the leadership has decided to view the constitution as a living case. In addition to the views we hold regarding the need to achieve relative stability and constancy in the Basic Law, the living feature of the constitution and the importance of seeing it respond to life changes also require the constitution in force to accommodate all that is new through constitutional legislation. Our guide in this must be the new draft constitution approved by the people. This should continue until we agree on the means of legislating the new constitution with all its chapters, God willing.

O brothers in religion, humanity, and nationalism wherever you are, amid the conflict between the West led by the United States and the Soviet Union, which led the communist bloc for a long time before it collapsed, the material criteria and meanings grew, including measures of size, technology, and other matters of life, in a serious manner, and they became the decisive measure in the meanings of the higher, in disputes among states and peoples, and in human relations. These meanings began to impose themselves and make their way in the world according to ready-made concepts spread by both conflicting parties, each from its position.

Therefore, the direct results of the conflict were material ones in general. Even when the Soviet Union collapsed, despite atheism declared by communism in it and in its satellite states, returning to faith in God was not accompanied by a wave of faith and ethical purification in the world, because direct slogans and their way in the arena of conflict were not spiritual, ethical, and humanitarian ones seeking justice and virtue on both sides of the two conflicting blocs and because the Arab nation, as a nation of prophets, did not play its role as it should.

This is on one hand. On the other, the solidarity of the Western system after World War II and the growth of its basic pillars took place in the atmosphere of the conflict with the opposing communist camp. Since the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact have collapsed, in addition to other developments in the world, including the growing effect of the popular role and awareness in deciding the basic results of the factors of historical evolution, a schism will certainly occur in the main bases of the Western structure and in their relations. Such a development will have a serious effect on the West's foreign relations and its international vision.

The aggression of the big powers, including the United States, against the small states; the small states' steadfastness in the face of the big powers' aggression; and the steadfastness of the Iraq of faith and jihad and Iraq's refusal to be a satellite of any state in the conflict will have great spiritual and moral effects at the international level, in a manner balancing international trends, which overwhelmed international relations throughout the past stage beginning from old colonialism and imperialism despite the current material upset in the international equation due to the dangers expected to take place under the imbalanced circumstances in today's world.

Third world nations seeking to safeguard their rights, security, and freedom, have to comprehend the era following the collapse of the Soviet Union. Third world nations and their supporters must strive to get their act together and grapple with the dangers facing them and all of humanity. This is in order for these nations to safeguard human and national rights. Those who are interested among the Arabs ought not to limit themselves to a halfhearted defense in the face of treason, trickery, and foreign ambitions. They must be bolder, franker, and more energetic and committed to a unified position and collective action. They should not hand the stewardship of Arab organizations—official or popular—to those who have used them to implement the aims of treason and trickery. They should create their own organizations that should be able to attract the greatest number possible of Arab masses in the interest of decent, overt, and convincing objectives.

Our great people and glorious Arab nation, brothers in Amman where the Arab Cooperation Council convened, in a public speech at that gathering, we talked about the international situation. One of the things we said was that the United States would continue to lead international politics when the Soviet Union collapsed and was removed from the top. That was when the conflict between the then two superpowers was still raging. We then wondered: Will the United States behave in a responsible manner after that development, or will it control the world? Its monopoly on leadership will make it even more arrogant, vain, and reckless, and so it will rush to control the world, and it will earn the enmity of others. Then it will be easier to weaken and dislodge it from the role of the sole superpower. It was a scenario that we thought would most likely materialize. We also said that a lopsidedly powerful United States would be tempted to aspire to a domination of the world. In order for the United States to gain control for longer, controlling Middle East oil and directing the politics of the region are crucial to the promotion of its aspirations. We also argued that the Arabs would bear the brunt of U.S. aggression, since they own the most oil in the region.

Also, since the United States and the belligerent Zionists have objectives in common, Washington is tempted to rush to aggression. This is in addition to other known factors.

One year after that speech, the United States led a Western aggression in a new unprecedented crusade against heroic, faithful, and mujahid Iraq. That episode brought to the surface the recklessness, arrogance and

vainglory of the United States in dealing with other countires—even those which it said were its allies in crime and evil.

The same disorder was evident in the League of Nations and its influential members after World War II. Its persuasive effect among people has vanished. U.S. aggressiveness, the shortsightedness of some big powers, and the weakness of their determination have led the United Nations—which was supposed to be a place in which views interact and the conflicting interests of big countries are restrained to prevent instability at the international level—to a situation in which these UN establishments, foremost among them the Security Council, have changed into something similar to a billboard. The purpose of this board is to display the will and interests of U.S. policy toward the world, including Iraq's legitimate challenge to hegemony, arrogance, and imperialism. Some of the activities, advertisements, and resolutions that are seen on this billboard have become something that causes sorrow and sadness about this establishment which has lost its respectable political meaning and the slightest of humanitarian values.

I will remind you of an example of this condition and the miserable action of this international establishment. On 3 March 1992, the Sanctions Committee, formed in accordance with Security Council Resolution 661, discussed the subject of exporting pencils to the elementary school pupils in Iraq to enable them to continue writing and learning. The representatives of four countries, which call themselves big, opposed this. These countries are the United States, Britain, France, and Japan, and they opposed under the pretext that these pencils contain a proportion of lead, and this lead can be taken from pencils to be used in Iraqi industry.

Do you see the silliness of these organizations and committees which operate in the name of the Security Council? Do you see how God has exposed their low deeds in order to end their respect among nations and peoples. If this is the level of thought and action of these organizations and committees, is there anyone who still expects any good from them, no matter how slight this good might be?

This example alone is enough to support the judgment that these organizations and committees are incapable and weak, if they are not accomplices. If these organizations tried to keep Iraqi children from getting pencils, then how will they go further and lift the siege on Iraq?

We still believe that the siege will not be lifted by resolution, even if Iraq does all that it can in addition to what it has already done. The siege will fall apart, and its effects will be weakened at the hands and minds of the righteous of Iraq, through their scientific and economic accomplishments, along with those of the Arab nation who support and back them in real faith.

Thus, national action, O lofty Iraqi men and glorious Iraqi women, demonstrated through patience, vigilance, organized and disciplined action, work, and rationalized consumption becomes equal in historical significance to combating and standing steadfast against the aggression waged by the idols and the 33 states engaged in it. When we spoke in Amman in February 1990 about the dangers of America and its expected aggressive action against the Arabs and the world, many people may not have paused at this analysis. Those who heard or read our speech at the time from among the world states' representatives may not have thought of it as an analysis reflecting likely possibilities. They may have treated it as an analysis produced by a representative of a small world state, of a third-class state according to the scale of humanity espoused by big blocs and leading imperialist powers, the blocs which cherish materialistic considerations and computers and which measure influence and soundness according to the ability to influence others materialistically, thanks to the magnitude involved. However, many of those who are dealing with the world nowadays with a reasonable degree of sobriety, patriotism, and farsightedness have realized the dangers posed by the United States. As we have already said, the rejection of American hegemony from within the ranks of the West will interact and converge with the rejection of this hegemony from outside Western countries. The end result will be similar to that suffered by all empires which were stubborn and made historical miscalculations. This result will be marked by weakness, collapse, and nothingness. The picture and the scene will recur before the eyes of the world from time to time whenever similar traits are displayed.

Even though this lesson, which was articulated by others before we did, regarding the rise and fall of empires is important, we do not want to dwell on it. What we want to say is that sound ideas are not always articulated by people with big bodies. Rather, we would like to go further and say that sound and great ideas most often come from minds that do not dwell within oversized bodies. As for these big countries, which were preceded by other big countries, they cannot be called big powers and remain so for a long time unless small countries, with influence in the world, are convinced of their role, and unless they show a balanced mental capacity that is commensurate with the capabilities they command by virtue of their size. What perpetuates characteristics and keeps them within the realm of positive humane influence is wisdom. And because those who are deciding U.S. policy have lost their persuasion ability based on mutual respect between them and other world states and replaced mutual respect and satisfaction between the United States and world states with fear of brute force, the United States has drifted from the peak of exclusive influence from the practical point of view after the false claims hiding all of its slogans appeared when the bombs and missiles of treachery and aggression fell on the edifices of Baghdad, the city of civilization, faith, and glory. What has remained of the claim it used to launch to promote its slogans after God willed its humiliation and weakened its status when it lined up 32 states to hit Baghdad, the city of glory and pride, it being the 33d

country and when, along with its 28th army, 27 other armies lined up to engage in the fight? [sentence as heard]

Does any computer, of those which measure things materially, still have anything to claim about the results of fighting which God wanted to be an opening to sound the early warning alarm for the whole world in order to alert it to the dangers of injustice, the straying from the right path, corruption, and the treason of the new Satan and its henchmen and satellites? God is far above, God be praised. How does he insist on seeking the meaning and dealing painful moral blows to weaken those He wants to weaken until they become so small that they burn Iraq's crops—the food of a great mujahid nation?

The United States is the superpower that indisputably sits at the summit of underhanded dealings and deception, in addition to those who align themselves with it in the same field of deception. It is the same superpower, with its small partner in crime, Great Britain—adjectives that do not apply to them. The United States, with its large armies, smart bombs, and its potential about which the defeated speak, has forsaken its prestige to set fire to crops in northern Iraq. Is there something more emphatic than this concerning the nonexistence of justice, faith, and elevated stature and the nonexistence of a belief in legitimate action?

Praise be to the Almighty, capable, wise, merciful, and victorious God. Glory to the owners of glory, with prior faith in elevation, and in everything contributing to our people's steadfastness in the face of the tyrant. Glory and victory, God willing, to our people and the sons of our glorious people and to every one prepared to confront injustice, corruption, and tyranny in the world. Glory to the sons of the stone in the arena of strength, as they are resisting unjust Zionism to carry out their duty and that of the nation and to liberate dear Palestine. Glory to every mujahid and struggler in our nation working under these adjectives to elevate the nation in the name of God. Glory to our righteous martyrs. God is great, God is great, God is great. Ignominy to the lowly ones.

Saddam Chairs Meeting of Air Force Officers

JN1907191392 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] His Excellency Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has presided over a meeting of several officers of the Air Force and Air Defense.

Staff Lieutenant General Muzahim Sa'b al-Hasan, commander of the Air Force and Air Defense, attended.

Responsibility for Death of UN Guard Denied

JN1807150992 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] The Government of Iraq has emphasized that it does not bear any responsibility for the ugly murder of a UN guard in Dahuk Governorate. It said that the murder is the outcome of the illegitimate interference in Iraq's domestic affairs by the United States and its allies.

This came in a letter addressed last night to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali by Iraq's permanent UN representative 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari. In his formal letter, Ambassador al-Anbari said that the regrettable incident occurred in Dakuk Governorate, which is under the control of irregular and irresponsible Kurdish elements supported by the U.S.-led allies.

He also made it clear that the abnormal situation has been created by this support, the control of these irregular and irresponsible Kurdish elements that are spreading corruption in Dahuk Governorate, and the absence of government administration in the governorate.

Killing of UN Guard Blamed on U.S.

JN1907133092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1244 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jul (INA)—Commenting on a statement issued by the president of the Security Council last Friday [17 July] concerning the assassination of a UN guard in Dahuk Governorate, Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn has made the following statement to INA:

Iraqi authorities are not responsible for the assassination of a UN guard and for other incidents that have happened to UN personnel in the northern governorates. The UN secretary general, the Security Council, and the whole world know that there are no government administrations in the northern governorates, which have turned into an open area for outlaw groups and irresponsible factions. He noted that the chaos in these areas was caused by U.S. and allied forces, adding that the Iraqi Government holds Iraq's enemies responsible for what is happening in the country.

Killer May Have Been 'Worker'

JN1907083292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0622 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] New York, 19 Jul (INA)—Western quarters in the United Nations believe the UN guard who was killed in Dahuk, northern Iraq, lived in a compound that is hard for aliens to enter to commit a murder.

An INA correspondent at the United Nations cited (?informed) press sources as saying these quarters suspect the murderer was a worker at the site. They also suspect the murder may have taken place following a gambling dispute between the victim and one of his colleagues.

Assembly Replies to European Parliament Statement

JN1807194092 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] The National Assembly has asserted that the Kurds are Iraqi citizens and are treated in light of that citizenship because they have been granted all the national rights epitomized by the 11 March 1971 statement, under which the autonomous rule law on Kurdistan region in northern Iraq was enacted. That region, which is predominantly inhabited by Kurds, is running its own local affairs through both the Legislative Council and the Executive Council. As a result, the provisional Constitution was amended in accordance with Resolution 247. Article 7 of the resolution reads as follows: The region, which is predominantly inhabited by Kurds, enjoys autonomous rule in accordance with law.

In a statement replying to a resolution issued by the European Parliament on 12 June—a resolution which includes many issues pertaining to the Iraqi Kurds—the National Assembly said: The national rights, which have been granted to our Kurdish people over a quarter of a century, have been so large that the citizen has gained a two-fold right both in his capacity as a Kurd and as an Iraqi citizen.

If we compare these rights with the rights of Kurdish citizens in other states, we will see that the Kurdish citizens in those states are deprived of the minimum human rights despite their large numbers, compared to the number of Kurds in Iraq. Your esteemed parliament should have mentioned that fact, which you seem to be ignoring.

In its statement, the National Assembly added: Despite the existence of the Legislative Council and the National Assembly in Iraq, an outlaw political group held the so-called elections in the autonomous region in an atmosphere of terror and under the supervision of the alliance forces, forced our Kurdish people to participate in that process, and rigged the elections.

Some factions of the Kurdistan Front admitted that fact, and that two factions claimed 50 percent each of the results of the elections, in conflict with election process in developed and developing countries. In its statement, the assembly called on the European Parliament to exchange visits between the National Assembly of Iraq and the European Parliament in order to create a kind of constructive dialogue to serve both sides, to bolster relations between peoples, and to guarantee security and stability in the region and the world.

Further Reportage on UN Inspection of Ministry

Minister Reiterates Position on Team

JN1707175792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jul (INA)—Iraq has reiterated its unchanging and principled position of refusing admission into the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry to the villainous UN inspection team, which has been camped outside the ministry building for the last 13 days.

Agriculture and Irrigation Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud al-Sabbagh told a news conference at the ministry that Iraq flatly refuses all vicious attempts by the inspection team. Ministry staff, he added, are determined not to allow these scoundrels to implement the new U.S. imperialist conspiracy to desecrate the premises of the ministry. This new act of provocation is a link in the chain of conspiracies seeking to keep in place the iniquitous embargo against Iraq and to starve its people.

The minister stressed that the building is civilian and has no military function whatsoever. Arab and other ambassadors and nongovernemntal humanitarian organizations have visited various sections of the building at our invitation and familiarized themselves with the ministry's activities.

He repeated that the ministry was prepared to allow literary, Islamic, or Christian figures access to the building to see for themselves the business in which it is engaged.

UN's Ekeus Holds Talks on Crisis

JN1907153792 Baghdad INA in English 1230 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, July 19, INA—Visiting head of the U.N. Special Committee Rolf Ekeus is due to leave Baghdad today after having talks with Iraqi officials on the fabricated crisis of the U.S. inspection team search the Ministry of Agriculture. [sentence as received]

The Iraqi paper AL-THAWRAH said that Mr. Ekeus declined to give a statement following his meetings with Mr. Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs, but said that he has nothing new.

The paper said that in a short statement by Ekeus yesterday evening, Mr. Ekeus said that he had exchanged viewpoints and would not add anything to that because a third round of talks would take place today.

On a question why [the inspection team is] insisting to inspect the Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Ekeus said that these were orders of the Security Council and that they were implementing them and when asked about his duties, he did not give an answer.

Replying to another question on the reason behind choosing American elements to lead the inspection teams, Mr. Ekeus said that it was an affair by the Special Committee and on a question about contents of the message conveyed to the Iraqi side, Mr. Ekeus said that the message was verbal and did not give further elaboration.

Asked whether [words indistinct] Mr. Ekeus said that depends on the results of talks and about Iraq [words indistinct] Mr. Ekeus give no answer.

'Aziz Meets Ekeus; Rejects Inspection

JN1907135392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1240 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jul (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz today received Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, and the delegation accompanying him. During the meeting, Tariq 'Aziz affirmed Iraq's principled and firm position vis-a-vis the issue of inspecting the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. He said that the reason for our refusal to allow the ministry to be inspected is that this agency is a symbol of national sovereignty, and not because the premises contain any materiel that fall under the jurisdiction of the inspection committees, as is claimed by the Special Commission. That is why Iraq invited Arab and foreign journalists to visit the ministry on the first day of the crisis. Iraq also invited Arab and foreign diplomats residing in Baghdad to visit the building and acquaint themselves with what is inside, he noted.

The deputy prime minister said that Iraq is ready to invite nuclear, chemical, ballistic, and biological specialists from nonaligned countries, neutral Security Council member states, or other world states to visit and inspect the ministry so they can confirm that there is nothing inside as claimed by the Special Commission.

The deputy prime minister went on to say that the request to inspect the ministry premises is provocative and meant to humiliate Iraq. In addition, it is meant to serve as a precedent that future inspection teams could build upon to encroach on Iraq's sovereignty and dignity.

Tariq 'Aziz said: This course reflects the U.S. approach of conspiring against Iraq. That is why you see this approach being implemented to the letter by Americans; namely, U.S. Army Major Karen Jansen and, before her, CIA man David Kay among others.

The deputy prime minister asserted that the Security Council, under the influence of the United States and some of its Western allies, has failed to change its position with regard to the unfair blockade imposed on the Iraqi people, even though we have gone far in our efforts to implement Security Council resolutions imposed on Iraq, and regardless of the immense flexibility displayed by Iraq. This is because there is a U.S. decision to maintain the blockade. This is what the Security Council has been doing; and it is being done through these provocative acts being carried out by inspection teams.

The deputy prime minister concluded: We hope that the Security Council members not taking part in this U.S. colonialist scheme will realize the truth of this matter and take the position dictated by a humane conscience and their responsibilities as spelled out in the UN Charter.

Foreign Minister Receives Ekeus

JN1907141492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1246 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jul (INA)—This morning Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn received Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, the minister explained Iraq's firm position and its categorical rejection of the UN inspection teams' exploitation of the unjust Security Council resolutions in attempts to harm Iraq's sovereignty and security, as well as to interfere in its domestic affairs under various pretexts. He also explained Iraq's cooperation with the inspection teams over the past period.

The foreign minister affirmed that Iraq's experience with the inspection teams, as well as recent events, provide indisputable evidence that some of these inspection teams are appointed, not to implement Security Council resolutions on Iraq, but to serve specific political goals of certain influential UN Security Council members states.

Ahmad Husayn added that Iraq has documented evidence from some inspection team members confirming the soundness of Iraq's argument. He said that among this evidence is a statement made by American Karen Jansen, chairman of the 39th UN Special Commission inspection team, on 11 July, when she admitted holding the rank of major in the U.S. Army and that she would have been very proud to have served in the allied ranks opposed to Iraq during the Gulf crisis. The United Nations, as well as American David Kay, chairman of the sixth nuclear inspection team, also admitted that Kay was sending information through members of the inspection teams in Iraq to the U.S. Government in Washington and not to the Security Council president in New York, as stipulated for in Security Council resolutions pertaining to Iraq.

The minister stressed that these documented confessions prove the soundness of information published by Iraq regarding the identity of some inspection team members, and also reaffirm that the United States has exploited the UN Special Commission by sending its officers and spies to Iraq under the Security Council banner to serve U.S. goals that are hostile to Iraq.

The meeting was also attended by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Nizar Hamdun.

Assembly Protests 'Unethical Conduct'

JN1907192292 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] The National Assembly has condemned the practices of the international inspection team that has been besieging the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation since 5 July.

In a protest memorandum handed over to the aforementioned team, the Assembly strongly condemned the

international team's unethical conduct, which contravenes the most basic rules of international law, international norms, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Assembly affirmed that the team's practices are deemed as interference in Iraq's domestic affairs, not to mention the fact that they violate Paragraph 7 of Article 2 of the UN Charter.

In its memorandum, the Assembly pointed out that these provocative acts are part of efforts to fabricate crises and use them as a pretext for maintaining the unfair blockade imposed on the Iraqi people, so as to deny them the chance to meet their own food requirements, as well as to undermine their food security and national sovereignty.

The Assembly indicated that the prime motive behind this fabricated incident is to distract the public from the crimes being committed by U.S. and British aircraft against the peasants' farms in Ninawa Governorate.

During a march staged before the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the National Assembly members condemned the practices of the scoundrel members of the international inspection team besieging the premises.

In a statement to reporters during the march, National Assembly Deputy Speaker Ghanim 'Aziz affirmed that the practices of the scoundrel team are aimed at interfering in Iraq's domestic affairs and maintaining the unfair blockade imposed on our militant people.

'Sources' Say U.S. Preparing Attack

NC1807150992 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] Arab diplomatic sources have said that the United States is presently preparing to deal a military blow to the tyrant's regime in early August to coincide with the second anniversary of the tyrant's invasion of Kuwait.

The sources said the current crisis at the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry will be the pretext for this blow.

Rebel Radios Report Attacks, Regime Actions

Regime Said to Use Banned Aircraft

NC1707164392 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1321 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] O sons of our struggling people, o zealous mujahidin, and heroes of the valiant popular uprising, the defeated tyrant Saddam's dreams have been crushed. He and his servile and treacherous companions suffered defeat and disappointment when they launched a desperate attack on al-Wadiyah, (Umm al-Hawsh), al-Mazar, and al-Hajjiyah areas at 0500 on Wednesday 15 July. The 704th and 95th Brigades participated in the attack, supported by a tank battalion from the criminal 'Adnan forces and the 216th Artillery Battery, and MiG-23 fighter aircraft, used for the first time despite a ban on their use by the United Nations.

Our heroic mujahidin fought a fierce seven-hour battle with all the 'Aflaqite concentrations that oppose our people. During the battle, the blessed Sha'ban uprising's brave men recorded immortal honorable stands for the victorious revolution's history. The clash defeated coward Saddam's forces, leaving behind the bodies of misled dead and wounded people as animal feed. Huge quantities of usable weapons, ammunition, and equipment remained on the battleground. We will give full details after counting them.

God is great, God is great. God is the only one to grant victory.

Clashes With Regime Reported

NC1707171992 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1321 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Our sons have dealt crushing blows to Saddam's aggressive remnants, proving to the world that Saddam will be deposed by our Muslim revolutionaries and mujahidin.

Over the past two days, heroic units of the Islamic revolution's mujahidin have carried out swift attacks on Saddam's cowardly forces in the Abu Saddah, (Muray'an), and (Shari' Al Juwaybir) areas near the marshlands of al-Basrah Governorate. Our heroes poured fire on the heads of the aggressors, agents of the atheist Saddam. Dead and wounded mercenaries of the coward al-Majid [minister of defense] remain on the battlefield. We will detail the casualties once we count them.

During the clashes, our mujahidin also captured the following: Two 60-mm mortars with their ammunition, two tents and two telescopes, an RPG-7 launcher with 20 rockets, four BKC [as heard] rifles, four light [as heard] Kalashnikov rifles with light ammunition, a military telephone, and other military equipment and ammunition. Our heroic mujahidin captured four of the defeated 'Aflaqite personnel.

Our mujahidin warn all military personnel stationed in the area to return to their barracks and refrain from supporting defeated Saddam; otherwise Saddam and his meek followers will face death.

Radio Reports Hand Grenade Attacks

JN1707194292 (Clandestine) Kurdistan Voice of Unification in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Karkuk—A hand grenade was hurled into a crime combating facility in the neighborhood of Rahim Agha on the night of 11 July. Panic spread inside the facility, and the sound of firearms continued to be heard for an hour. The next morning, the residents of Karkuk saw the bodies of two of the regime's henchmen moved away from the aforementioned facility.

Another hand grenade was hurled into the Tappah crime combating facility on the night of 13 July. Nobody thus

far knows the extent of the loss or damage sustained by the facility as a result of the explosion. However, the news reports received on the incident state that the facility was badly damaged.

Opposition Repulses Regime Attack

NC1807182892 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] At 0800 on 16 July, (Hattashashmah) village in the (Jabbari) area in Karkuk Governorate came under heavy artillery shelling from the regime's forces. A military force comprising 20 military vehicles supported by two helicopters then attacked it.

The peshmerga forces of the 11th battalion of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan repulsed the attack, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy forces and forcing them to flee.

Rebels Attack Army Vehicle, Liquor Truck

NC1807165292 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1332 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] In retaliation for the immoral tyrant's regime's hostile and vicious acts against our Muslim people, a heroic popular group attacked a military (Eta) vehicle on the road between al-Dayr and [placename indistinct] a few days ago. They destroyed the vehicle and killed its Saddamist occupants and mercenaries. The dead included the commander of a company belonging to the 47th Brigade.

The men of the Islamic revolution also carried out a daring operation against Saddamist corruption. Our Muslim people's mujahidin attacked and destroyed a large truck carrying alcoholic beverages.

Thus the sons of our Muslim people will continue to defend the tenets of our Islamic religion and confront every attempt to corrupt the people carried out by Saddam, the agent of Freemasonry and international arrogance.

Marshland Fights Leave '100 Enemy Dead'

NC1807162592 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1332 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] Depending on God Almighty and the endurance of the blessed uprising's men, our heroes have confronted an attempted aggression by the remnants of Saddam's military units against our people in areas close to al-'Amarah Governorate's marshlands in al-Majarr al-Kabir. Saddam's units were caught in our struggler sons' ambushes and suffered huge losses. Eyewitnesses say that more than 100 enemy dead have been counted, including four officers. Five vehicles were burned and a quantity of arms and ammunition was captured. We will supply further details later, God willing.

Republican Guard Officers Dismissed

NC1807145692 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1332 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] According to news leaks from the units of reckless Saddam's Guard, the defeated dictator's regime dismissed more than 35 officers of various ranks a few days ago. The same sources added that the majority of these officers are commanders who have been serving in the brigades of the tyrant's so-called Republican Guard.

It should be noted that many of the dismissed officers might be subsequently executed by the terrorist Saddam.

The reports note that this is to be expected, judging by the regime's customary treatment of its own elements and [word indistinct] when they are no longer useful.

Officers Arrested After Loss in Marshes

NC1807164992 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1332 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] Two weeks ago Saddam's security apparatus arrested several officers serving in units that he had assembled near the southern marshlands. These units had carried out an unsuccessful aggression against citizens in al-'Amarah Governorate's marshlands.

Among the arrested officers were the following:

1. Lieutenant Colonel Haytham al-Maliki, commander of the 645th Artillery Battalion.

2. Lt. Col. Jabir 'Abd-al-Karim, the 11th Infantry Division's administrative officer.

3. Captain Wathiq Hasan al-Qaysi, the 31st Infantry Brigade's 3d Regiment's deputy commander.

4. Major Qays Salim al-Baydani, the 47th Brigade deputy commander.

5. Lieutenant Sa'fan, the 612th Brigade's paymaster.

The outcast tyrant's security agencies have leveled false charges against these officers in line with the 'Aflaqites' custom of falsely accusing the innocent.

The chairman of a revolutionary committee stated that the Saddamist units in which the detained officers served suffered a resounding defeat during their aggression against the citizens in al-'Amarah marshlands in late May. He added that arresting and executing military personnel is a vile method carried out by Saddam's terrorist gangs against our people, particularly honorable individuals who refuse to carry out aggression against women, children, and unarmed men to satisfy the knave Saddam's whims.

Regime Diverting Rivers, Preparing Attack

NC1807153092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] The ostracized regime has taken another criminal measure against the inhabitants of the marshlands. The regime's forces have cut off and diverted the waters of the rivers and other natural streams flowing toward the al-'Amarah marshes.

This step is part of the tyrant regime's plan to drain the waters of the marshes. It includes the rivers of al-Majarr, (Nahiyat-al- Salam), (Nahiyat-al-'Adl), (al-Shadhariyah), (Abu-'Ushayrah), and al-Wardiyah.

The Documentation Center of Iraqi Human Rights in Iraq has reported that the inhabitants of the marshlands are worried about this measure, which has aggravated their harsh living conditions. It has called on human rights organizations and activists to act and stop these measures by the ostracized regime as they are directly affecting the conditions of Iraqis.

Meanwhile, the tyrant's regime is preparing to launch a new barbaric attack against the inhabitants of the marshlands. Iraqi opposition sources have reported that 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, the defense minister of the ostracized regime, has visited the regime's forces deployed around the marshes and met with officers in preparation for launching a large-scale attack on the marshes.

These forces massed by the tyrant's regime in the south include long-range artillery regiments, advanced T-tanks, and 10 helicopters, which were observed on the outskirts of al-'Amarah marshes, al-Basrah, and al-Nasiriyah.

Regime Training Agents Against Opposition

NC1807161592 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] The regime's intelligence services in Baghdad have organized a two-week course for the regime's agents in a number of European countries.

Informed sources report that the course centers on the new plan adopted by the tyrant's regime to monitor Iraqi opposition groups, attempting to infiltrate them, and strengthen the ostracized regime's relations with the extremist Islamic formations in North Africa.

The sources add that (Ilish al-Jazrawi), one of the regime's agents in France, returned to Paris after taking part in the course. He was subjected to a long interrogation by the regime's intelligence services over suspicion that he stole contributions to one society that claims to collect money to buy milk for Iraqi children. (Al-Jazrawi) proved during the interrogation that he had spent the contributions in the service of the regime and its terrorist objectives.

Rabin Comments After First Meeting With Baker

TA1907171392

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1634 GMT on 19 July begins a live relay, broadcast in progress, of a joint news conference in English by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem.

In his opening statement, Prime Minister Rabin says: "We discussed bilateral relations. I believe the discussions were frank and to the point and will continue during the visit of the secretary in another meeting, to try to find out what has been achieved, in what ways we'll go, and what has to be left to be decided later on.

"Thank you, Mr. Secretary, for coming. Thank you for your readiness to take part in the continuation and the acceleration of the peace process and the improvement in the relationship between our two countries."

Asked to elaborate on the duration and parameters of the suspension of settlements, Rabin says: "We are determined to continue with the peace negotiations within the framework of the Madrid conference. The questions are related mainly to the content, what will brought up there.

"Second, when it comes to the question of settlements, you know the guidelines of the present Government of Israel, and I will not elaborate on it now. To what extent they can be related to the terms that the United States has put on getting U.S. Government guarantees for loans for absorption, this issue has to be discussed, elaborated, and discussed."

Asked whether he was disappointed with the response of Arab leaders to his invitation to meet in Jerusalem or elsewhere, the prime minister states: "Well, I believe that the best way is to have a meeting between the leaders of the countries that are in a state of war, to bring an end to it, and to find a solution to the problems and establish peace. Therefore, the fact that they have refused or negated it is not an encouraging sign."

Baker Meeting 'Met Expectations'

TA1907193292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the first meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker dwelt, among other things, on the question of settlement and loan guarantees for immigrant absorption.

The meeting met expectations, say aides in Rabin's bureau. No breakthroughs were made, and no agreements were reached either. The talk dwelt on the peace process and the promotion of autonomy. As has been said, the two men discussed the new government's policy on settlement, and both noted that they had also discussed the question of loan guarantees and bilateral questions. Prime Minister Rabin said the talk had been frank. Yitzhaq Rabin and James Baker pointed out that in their next meetings they will dwell at length on the loan guarantees. The two will meet again tomorrow.

Secretary Baker will also confer with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and will participate in a working meeting with the prime minister, the foreign minister, and the finance minister. He is also scheduled to meet with Palestinian leaders tomorrow.

Media Preview Topics for Baker Meeting

No Settlement Freeze

TA1907063092 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 19 Jul 92 pp 1, 15

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer and Washington-based correspondent Rami Tal]

[Excerpts] This afternoon, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will arrive in Israel, starting a regional tour in a bid to enhance the peace process.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will receive him at Ben-Gurion Airport. Later today, he will meet Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin for a private meeting.

It is believed in Jerusalem that Baker's current visit in the region will be different from the rounds of talks he held here last year. [passage omitted]

Preparing for the visit, sources in Rabin's bureau stressed that the prime minister believes it is very important to lay the groundwork for the receipt of the loan guarantees for immigrant absorption during Baker's stay in Israel. The sources noted that during the visit Rabin does not intend to announce that he is willing to freeze all settlement activity or to declare that he intends to accept the formula of territories for peace as the basis for the continuation of the peace process.

The sources said they believe that the government guidelines and the decisions already made by the Finance and the Construction and Housing Ministries could serve as the basis for an agreement with the U.S. Administration on the loan guarantees.

The meetings with Baker will also be attended by Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and Bank of Israel Governor Ya'aqov Frenkel. The finance minister will explain the intended uses of the money obtained with the help of the loan guarantees. He will stress to Baker that the guarantees are important, but that it is no less important that the United States work for Israel on additional issues: lifting the Arab boycott; pressuring the EC to accept Israel as a member with equal rights; and expanding the exposure of Israel's economy to U.S. investors, under the auspices of the U.S. Administration. [passage omitted]

Request for Loan Guarantees

TA1907185092 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] Israel will ask the United States for $2 billion a year in loan guarantees in the coming year and another $8 billion in the following years, although the number of years has not yet been determined. Our economic affairs correspondent 'Oded Shahar reports that in a meeting held at the prime minister's bureau and attended by the foreign minister, the finance minister, and the governor of the Bank of Israel, it was noted that the Americans will want to follow economic developments in Israel as a condition for the approval of the guarantees every year.

Amnon Neubach, economic attache at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, said that in his opinion Israel will also have to make a special effort to persuade the U.S. Congress to support the requested guarantees, seeing that the talks with the administration will not suffice.

Effort To Allay Syrian Fears

TA1907111192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will arrive in Cairo on Tuesday [21 July]. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Rabin is scheduled to hold one meeting with President Husni Mubarak, after which he will return to Israel. This will be the first meeting between the leaders of Israel and Egypt in about six years.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will land in Israel late tomorrow afternoon. He will be met at the airport by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. In the evening, Mr. Baker will hold a private meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. During his visit to Israel, Mr. Baker will also meet Palestinian notables from the territories. Our political correspondent reports that Baker's meetings in Israel will focus on the peace process, the autonomy plan, and the issue of the loan guarantees. The secretary of state will also be involved in preparing Mr. Rabin's trip to the United States.

Jerusalem sources said that there will be an attempt to allay Syria's fears of remaining outside of the political process.

Conditions for Multilateral Talks

TA2007110292 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Jul 92 pp A1, A8

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar and Yosi Torpstein]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Political sources have said that Secretary of State Baker will learn of Jerusalem's readiness to include representatives from the Palestinian diaspora in the economic development committee and perhaps even in the committee on refugees at the multilateral talks on condition that the United States clearly state that the PLO is not a partner to the talks and that the inclusion of diaspora representatives does not constitute any form of precedent regarding the right of return issue.

Israel will also request that it be clarified that the diaspora representatives will not be included in the bilateral negotiations with the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

Palestinians Formulate Positions for Baker Meeting

Representative to Peace Delegation

TA1907094692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] The Palestinian delegation to the peace talks will urge Secretary Baker in their meeting tomorrow to act to stop settlements, both political and security, in the territories. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that in the meeting the Palestinians will also call for the closure of the detention centers and for respect for human rights in the territories. Despite the Madrid formula, the Palestinians will call on Baker to work to get a resident of East Jerusalem on the delegation. h2
Consultations in Damascus

TA1907171092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Excerpts] The leaders of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks—Faysal al-Husayni, Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, and Sa'ib 'Urayqat—will leave for Amman on 21 July en route to Damascus, where they will attend a meeting of Arab foreign ministers. This is the first time that Palestinian representatives will be attending a session of the extended forum of Arab foreign ministers, which includes the foreign ministers of Morocco, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt. The forum is scheduled to discuss the peace process and the political moves in the Middle East.

Five members of the Palestinian delegation headed by Faysal al- Husayni will confer with James Baker tomorrow. The Palestinian delegates held consultations today in Ramallah and in East Jerusalem to formulate their position in anticipation of the meeting. It seems that in the meeting the Palestinians will particularly dwell on a halt to settlement and on Israeli measures to build what they term mutual trust. [passage omitted]

Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi stated today that the Palestinian delegates will not be going to Amman to consult with PLO leaders.

Further on Palestinian Demands

TA1907193592 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Excerpt] In their meeting with James Baker tomorrow, the heads of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks will demand that the United States refrain from giving the loan guarantees to Israel until the latter totally halts all construction in the territories. This evening, Dr.

Hanan 'Ashrawi, the delegation's spokesman, told our correspondent in the territories, Amir Hay, that the Palestinians will also demand the release of prisoners, the abolition of censorship, and permission for the delegation to conduct official political activities.

In an interview with the East Jerusalem daily AL-SHA'B, Faysal al-Husayni stated that the Palestinians will demand in due course that he be officially included in the delegation. According to him, this would not contravene the Madrid formula. Here is a report by our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari:

On the eve of his meeting with Baker, Faysal al-Husayni hastened to visit Gaza in a bid to make sure that the truce between Fatah and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the Gaza Strip is upheld. This time, too, Israeli Arab representatives—such as Tariq 'Abd- al-Hayy, head of the al-Tira local council, and Ra'id Salah Mahajinah, mayor of Umm-al-Fahm—were the sponsors and go-betweens of the negotiations. This is a new phenomenon, albeit not a marginal one.

Al-Husayni conferred at the Islamic College with Hamas leaders 'Abd-al-'Aziz Rantisi and Muhammad al-Zahhar. Although a cease-fire prevails in the Gaza Strip, there is no telling how long it will last. It is feared that tensions will rise as Baker pressures the Palestinian delegation to get a move on. Any minor development in the negotiations spells tough decisions on their part, and that is why a semblance of tranquility—even if short-lived—is so important. [passage omitted]

Rabin on Peace Process, al-Najah Affair

TA1907114392 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Studio interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik—live]

[Text] [Sukenik] Good evening, Mr. Rabin.

[Rabin] Good evening.

[Sukenik] Mr. Baker is arriving tomorrow while the new government is still getting itself organized. Are you not concerned that you might be unprepared for possible U.S. pressure to achieve quick results?

[Rabin] I am not worried about this. We were interested in expediting the peace process while also improving relations with the United States, so that we can really change the order of national priorities and focus on the war against unemployment and on social and economic problems. Therefore, after the Knesset expressed confidence in the government, I welcomed President Bush's suggestion to hold this visit in order to prepare the meeting between the U.S. President and myself.

[Sukenik] Do you have any new ideas to present to Mr. Baker? You will be holding a private meeting tomorrow evening at 1800.

[Rabin] We are indeed meeting tomorrow evening. Secretary of State Baker will be the one to hear whether or not new ideas are presented.

[Sukenik] Nevertheless, he will ask questions. He will ask about your plans regarding the settlements. This might be what he is most interested in. Have you already prepared data on the issue, or do you have any new decisions to inform him about?

[Rabin] At this stage, there are only the government guidelines. We are still processing the data. I have clearly stated the distinction between security settlements and other settlements. This is the policy that is guiding the government.

[Sukenik] Do you have any indication that the Americans have accepted this distinction?

[Rabin] I will know all this only tomorrow, and perhaps not even then.

[Sukenik] What then can we expect from Baker's visit, after all?

[Rabin] I very much hope that a new atmosphere will be created in our relations with the United States. This will help us promote the peace process, improve relations, and facilitate our needs from the United States.

[Sukenik] Will you provide Mr. Baker with new ideas to take with him?

[Rabin] That is something you had better ask him when he leaves.

[Sukenik] However, I assume....

[Rabin, interrupting] I will not get into that issue now.

[Sukenik] But he does not expect to hear the same formulas he got from Yitzhaq Shamir.

[Rabin] I very much hope so.

[Sukenik] Are there any new ideas, Israeli proposals, or perhaps some dramatic gesture planned before September?

[Rabin] I do not deal in dramas. I deal with solutions and this is something that takes time. However, at the same time we have to make sure we can get help to achieve our domestic goals.

[Sukenik] A round of direct peace talks are scheduled to be held in Rome at the beginning of September. Do you think that these dates could be brought forward, or that significant events could take place even before September following this week's rapid acceleration of the peace process that was initiated by both Israel and the United States?

[Rabin] I cannot give you an answer to that. I am interested in expediting the peace process without

harming Israel's security on any account. I want to guarantee that the results will be firmly anchored in reality.

[Sukenik] Meanwhile, you are leaving for a visit of several hours to Egypt on Tuesday. This has not been officially announced but this is what we were told. I understand that you will not be meeting with Baker there, even though he will arrive just after you.

[Rabin] I will leave sometime next week for a meeting with President Mubarak. I think that there is room to improve relations with Egypt as well. Egypt is the only Arab country to sign a peace agreement with us. I strongly believe that we should have warmer relations with Egypt. I also think that Egypt could play a beneficial role—but definitely not in lieu of the bilateral talks—in the Arab world both on the bilateral and multilateral levels.

[Sukenik] The impasse at al-Najah university was happily resolved on the eve of Baker's visit. You said, and this was also implied in statements made by the chief of staff, that until now events of this kind required no authorization from the political echelon. Have any conclusions been drawn? Are there any new decisions regarding such matters to preclude such developments in the future?

[Rabin] No, I would like to clarify something. I do not think that the chief of staff intended to say that there was no room for instructions from the political echelon in the kind of incident that, through no desire of ours, occurred at al-Najah. What the chief of staff correctly explained was that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] had scored many successes in capturing wanted men, who constitute the hard core of terrorism in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. This time a complication ensued which demanded the involvement of the political echelon. After holding consultations with the chief of staff, the IDF's general staff, and the various intelligence services, I consider myself responsible for the decisions made. My decision was first and foremost guided by the following principles: We constitute the authority there, and we maintain a dialogue with the residents. Second, we want to capture and neutralize all the wanted men, the hard-core terrorists. Third, in this specific case, the problem we were faced with was whether to achieve our objective through military action, for which the IDF was deployed and prepared to carry out, or by conducting a dialogue that would result in the neutralization of these wanted men by deporting them to Jordan for three years. This already has a precedent. In recent months, wanted men who turned themselves in had an arrangement in which they were deported to Jordan for three or five years. In other words, this arrangement according to which a wanted men turns himself in and is deported to Jordan for a limited period constitutes no precedent. I believe we made the correct decision. We achieved our goal and put our hands on at least most of the wanted men, I hope. We did not start the kind of military action that could have caused bloodshed, got us into a mess, and perhaps even have led to the injury of IDF soldiers.

[Sukenik] Thank you very much, Mr. Prime Minister.

Police Receive Information on Plans To Attack Baker

TA1907042492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 19 Jul 92

[Text] The Police and General Security Services have received information that extreme right-wing elements plan to attack Secretary of State Baker during his visit. Qol Yisra'el's police reporter says the police are checking whether there is any connection between the information they have and the theft of three rocket-propelled grenades, stolen a month ago from an army base. A number of reserve soldiers were questioned following the theft, but the investigation was inconclusive. Extra police will be on duty for the Baker visit and security precautions will be stepped up at American facilities.

Police Mount 'Wide-Ranging Operation'

TA1907045692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Report by police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum]

[Text] We have to start out by saying that at this stage there is not, as far as is known, confirmation of the anonymous information, which came in several days ago, about a plan to harm Secretary Baker, but the security forces are taking it seriously and are not ruling out any possibility, no matter how fantastic it could be. That led to the assumption that there might be a link between that information and the theft of six rocket-propelled grenades from an army base about a month ago. After the theft was discovered, several soldiers in the reserves who had served in that base were were detained and questioned, but nothing was learned.

The Shin Bet and police are not taking any chances. The police are preparing for a wide-ranging operation to assure Baker's safety when he arrives today. That will include the route from the airport to Jerusalem and then all the areas Baker will pass through during his three days here. During Baker's previous trips here, Kakh managed to sabotage and cause light damage to U.S. buildings and institutions in the capital. Beginning this morning, police protection around those buildings will be beefed up and supervision of leading activists on the extreme right, especially the Kakh and Kahana Hay movements, will be increased. They are planning, as far as is known, to disrupt Baker's visit in various ways, and the police are talking about especially tough reactions to any such attempt.

The security forces are also preparing for the possibility that extreme Palestinians will try to exploit the international limelight on Israel this week to try to carry out attacks. We are trying to think of everything, a senior source told us last night, and still anything is possible.

KAKH Denies Attack Plan

TA1907061692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] KAKH says that it has no intention of harming U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. In reaction to this morning's reports, KAKH spokesman No'am Federman said he and his colleagues are planning protest actions against Yitzhaq Rabin and his government, over what he said is their capitulation to an anti-Semitic U.S. Administration.

Rabin To Visit Egypt for Talks With Mubarak

TA1807044392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] On Tuesday [21 July], Prime Minister Rabin will travel to Cairo where he is to meet with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

No Rabin-Baker-Mubarak Meeting Scheduled

TA1907135092 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] There will be no tripartite meeting of Egyptian President Mubarak, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, and U.S. Secretary Baker in Cairo. This was stated today by Me'ir Kohen, press attache at the Israeli Embassy in Cairo, commenting on such a possibility raised by Egyptian sources. Kohen added that Rabin's visit to Egypt on Tuesday will only last a few hours, while Baker is scheduled to arrive in Egypt on Wednesday.

Egyptian Envoy Comments

TA2007062292 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni said that Egypt would welcome a tripartite meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, President Husni Mubarak, and Secretary of State James Baker. Basyuni noted that with the establishment of the new government, the chances of resolving Middle East problems are greater. Egypt will try to play a more active role in promoting the peace process, the ambassador said. Our correspondent Gil Yerushalmi is here with more details.

[Begin recording] [Yerushalmi] Will there or will there not be a tripartite meeting between Rabin, Mubarak, and Baker? To the best of our knowledge so far, the answer is no. Rabin plans to leave Cairo already on Tuesday, 21 July, after a rushed visit to Egypt, while Baker will only arrive on Wednesday. Egypt, at any rate, is very interested in holding such a top-level meeting. Any meeting that may lead to better understanding between the parties, Egyptian Amb. Muhammad Basyuni said, is welcome.

[Basyuni, in English] I do believe that any kind of meeting, if it is with Mr. Baker and with Mr. Rabin, I do believe it is helpful for more understanding, to exchange the views and to push the peace process.

[Yerushalmi translates above remarks and continues] Basyuni, like other Egyptian officials, expressed great satisfaction and a high degree of optimism regarding the change of power in Israel and the new government's basic guidelines. I believe, he said, that the opportunity to find a speedy solution to the problems facing the Middle East has now been created.

[Basyuni, in English] One hundred percent, because if we hear the guidelines of the new government and the statements of Mr. Rabin, it gives hope for the future, so all of us are optimistic and we do believe that Mr. Rabin is serious to achieve a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in our area.

[Yerushalmi translates and continues] Basyuni added that there is now greater readiness in Egypt to play a larger role in the political negotiations.

[Basyuni, in English] Egypt is willing to play a key role in the peace process, because Egypt has a unique position. Egypt has good relations with the United States, Egypt has good relations with the Russians, Egypt has good relations with all the parties concerned; with Israel it has a peace treaty, and with all the Arab partners we have good relations. [end recording]

Al-Najah University Crisis Solved; 6 Deported

TA1707141692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] A solution has been found to the crisis at al-Najah University in Nabulus. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that six wanted men, who had found refuge at the campus, will be expelled voluntarily to Jordan for three years. They will be allowed to visit their relatives in Judaea and Samaria once a year.

The six are now being expelled via the Allenby Bridge. Only after they reach Jordanian soil will the curfew on Nabulus and its surroundings be lifted and will IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops leave the area of al-Najah University.

Nabulus Curfew Lifted

TA1707181692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] The crisis at al-Najah University is over. Six Palestinians wanted by the security forces agreed to a three-year deportation. More details from reporter Mark Weiss:

After leaving their weapons behind, the six fugitives were taken from the campus shortly after 1830 [1530 GMT] this evening in Red Cross vehicles escorted by Army jeeps. They were heading for the Allenby Bridge to begin a three-year period of deportation in Jordan.

During these three years, the six will not be allowed to visit relatives in the territories.

The six have been identified as Fatah activists, all from the Balatah refugee camp near Nabulus. They are Majid al-Masri, Nasir Awayiz, Yasir Badawi, 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-Qadir, Bil'il Duwayqat, and Mahmud Ta'ib. All are suspected of terrorist attacks against local residents whom they believed to cooperate with the authorities.

After the six left the campus, the more than 2,000 students departed from the university, ending the four-day standoff. Crowds of people poured on to Nabulus streets, shouting and whistling as the six left. At 1920 this evening, the curfew on Nabulus and the surrounding refugee camps was lifted.

Sa'ib 'Urayqat, a lecturer at al-Najah and a member of the Palestinian peace team, was one of those involved in the negotiations. He said it was a painful moment to have six people separated from their families and their land. On the other hand, he was relieved the students were free after four days of siege.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman put out a statement following the end of the crisis, saying the Army and security forces will continue to work to capture wanted terrorists in any place and at any time they see fit.

[Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew at 1705 GMT on 17 July carries a similar report, adding that "the IDF is now thinning out its deployment around the campus."

[The reports further states that "five of the deportees have been incarcerated for security-related offenses, and all six have been sought by IDF authorities since the end of 1991 or the beginning of 1992. One of them had managed to escape from police detention. The suspicions against them are corroborated by evidence furnished by captured associates." According to the report, "four deportees are 20 years old and two are 30."]

Chief of Staff on al-Najah Events, Deportation

TA1707184292 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1705 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Studio interview with Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, chief of staff, by Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari—live]

[Text] [Ya'ari] Good evening, chief of staff.

[Baraq] Good evening.

[Ya'ari] For our information, have the six deportees crossed the bridge into Jordan yet?

[Baraq] I believe they are crossing at this very moment.

[Ya'ari] Have the Jordanians agreed to take them in?

[Baraq] The Jordanians have agreed to receive them.

[Ya'ari] A self-explanatory question: Why was this way decided on?

[Baraq] The other alternatives, mainly the possibility of using force, which could have affected innocent people-....[Baraq changes thought] To reduce such a danger, the moment the possibility was raised in our dialogue with Nabulus notables to allow these people to leave for Jordan for three years, we weighed the suggestion and decided that under the conditions, this was the right thing to do.

[Ya'ari] Had this alternative not been accepted, would you have ordered the troops to enter the campus?

[Baraq] I do not want to address hypothetical questions or indulge in speculation concerning things that did not occur, but the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has already carried out tasks more complicated than the takeover of a university. Had it been necessary, we would have used force and apprehended them.

[Ya'ari] To elucidate the point: You do not rule out the possibility of the use of force on campus.

[Baraq] I certainly do not.

[Ya'ari] In the past four days, there were reports of 14 or more fugitives. Why are only six crossing the Allenby Bridge?

[Baraq] The six are the only ones whom we know with certainty to have been on campus.

[Ya'ari] Then there could have been others.

[Baraq] I cannot categorically rule out this possibility. If there were others, we will apprehend them somewhere else on some other occasion.

[Ya'ari] Do you believe the Red Cross will indeed hand their weapons over to the IDF, as agreed?

[Baraq] I do not know right now whether the Red Cross has the weapons. If it does, we will get them; if not, we will look for them and find them eventually.

[Ya'ari] With your permission, I would like to refer to the remarks of Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on our program a few days ago. He voiced what I would term consternation at the fact that elections to the al-Najah students association had been held without the Army checking people entering the campus, which resulted in armed fugitives getting in. I am directing the question to you.

[Baraq] We are not directed by events such as the elections; there have been dozens of kinds of elections over the past months in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, including some to institution of higher education. The method we have introduced is a search for fugitives. One aspect of that method in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, as a result of which fugitives have been apprehended, is to seize fugitives whenever we receive information about

their whereabouts. The troops do not ask for permission from either the commander or the chief of staff.

The al-Najah event began with the apprehension of a fugitive who was captured as he was leaving the campus. His interrogation led to the conclusion that additional fugitives were hiding inside. When we found that out, the campus was encircled by troops.

[Ya'ari] Was the encirclement itself done with your knowledge, on your instructions, or with that of relatively low ranks?

[Baraq] They do not need my instructions to close the campus, but when I was apprised of the situation we continued the closure so as to either apprehend the wanted men or smoke them out.

[Ya'ari] I assume some people will wonder how Israel allows fugitives, who had been involved in acts of violence, to leave the country. Is this perhaps the wrong kind of signal to the fugitives who are still loose, including those who were believed to have been on the campus but who were not there, although they gave interviews to the broadcasting station relaying from Syria? They may think there is a way to elude the security forces and to obtain an exit ticket.

[Baraq] We take action against fugitives wherever and whenever we deem necessary, at any time and at any kind of event of which we learn. This was true with respect to the latest event. The capture of fugitives inside the campus was impossible without a more sweeping action. Since the use of force is an option, not an obsession, with us, we examined the possibility of expelling them for three years and decided to opt for it. This course of action seems very appropriate to me, and if we can resort to it occasionally, in cases in which the fugitives' hands are not stained with Jewish blood, if they have not murdered Jews, we will sometimes do it.

[Ya'ari] To conclude, Mr. Chief of Staff, have you learned anything from the possibility—I would say the impressive possibility—of achieving an understanding and an arrangement with the local Palestinian leadership in a difficult, complex, and delicate situation such as was the case in Nabulus?

[Baraq] The lesson is that in any situation—and we do not profess to be able to foresee them all—we should examine the circumstances. We can always resort to the use of force. The Civil Administration conducts an ongoing dialogue with the population on issues such as sewage, education, and others. In every situation, we will deliberate and decide which way is the best. As a rule, we prefer to apprehend the fugitives. In some cases, the fugitives may prefer to leave the country, and sometimes we will agree to that.

[Ya'ari] What you are saying is that there is no need to mourn their departure.

[Baraq] There is no need to mourn the fact that these fugitives are now, or soon will be, on the other side of the Jordan River, rather than here.

[Ya'ari] Thank you very much, Mr. Chief of Staff.

Al-Husayni on al-Najah Solution, Baker Visit

TA1707183692 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian negotiating team, by Yoni Ben-Menahem in Nabulus on 17 July]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted]

[Ben-Menahem] How do you see the agreement with the Israeli authorities? You approved the agreement. What does that indicate?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that the evolution of events placed everyone in an impasse from which it was very difficult to emerge, especially the conduct by the Israeli authorities here in imposing a siege on al-Najah University. They climbed a tall tree, and it was difficult for them to come down. Many attempts were made to help them do so. The price for us, too, was not cheap. Some people are to be expelled for a specific time. We oppose that principle, except in extremely exceptional cases. This is an extremely exceptional case—safeguarding the lives of people in this totally unacceptable siege. Ultimately, we can say that this agreement was reached under very difficult circumstances. We do not consider this a precedent.

[Ben-Menahem] Yesterday there was a deadlock in the negotiations with the Israeli authorities. How did this change take place, and what is the reason for it?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that intensive negotiations took place and numerous contacts were made, both in the territories and abroad. All those contacts ultimately led to a shift in position. The Israeli authorities reassessed their position.

[Ben-Menahem] Is this agreement based on a U.S. proposal?

[Al-Husayni] I do not know, but we heard the proposal for the first time from the Israeli radio. Afterward, it was proposed to us by the military governor.

[Ben-Menahem] Do you believe that this agreement and the resolution of the al-Najah crisis will improve the climate in advance of Baker's visit?

[Al-Husayni] All of Baker's previous visits were preceded by a crisis. Baker would arrive with the crisis still unresolved. Perhaps for the sake of change, Baker will come this time with at least this crisis resolved.

[Ben-Menahem] How do you view Rabin's stance on this crisis?

[Al-Husayni] We view positively the statement made by Rabin two days ago in which he placed responsibility for the events and their evolution on the Israeli authorities and criticized the whole affair. He was courageous in making that decision and in uttering that statement. We hope that boldness will be practiced on the ground also.

[Ben-Menahem] Will the Palestinian delegation meet with Baker?

[Al-Husayni] Yes. There will be a meeting with Baker.

[Ben-Menahem] In general, what topics will you raise?

[Al-Husayni] In general, the ways to advance the peace process. We also want to make sure that the Israeli measures in stopping settlement activities are clear and sound. We want to ensure that confidence-building steps are taken by the Israeli side to help in launching the transitional phase.

Cabinet Holds First Session, Makes New Appointments

TA1907103592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0905 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz]

[Excerpt] The Rabin government's first session opened festively. The session lasted two hours, and when it ended the old/new Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein summed up the meeting as follows:

[Begin Rubinstein recording] The prime and defense minister, the police minister, the chief of staff, and the police commissioner reported on current issues within the framework of the Ministerial Committee on National Security Affairs. This naturally included the events at al-Najah University last week. The prime minister announced the government's agenda. As is usually the case, the cabinet also approved the operation procedures. The cabinet noted the prime minister's announcement on my appointment as cabinet secretary for a period of three months, and appointed Mr. Shim'on Sheves as director general of the Prime Minister's Office. As is known, under the Government Basic Law, when a new government is set up, a Ministerial Committee on National Security Affairs is set up with an initial composition, headed by the prime minister. The cabinet today decided on the full composition of the committee. The cabinet also set up a ministerial committee on privatization of public companies under the prime minister. That committee will also include the finance minister, who will serve as acting chairman, and the justice minister.

The cabinet also decided that the implementation of previous and unimplemented cabinet resolutions on the establishment of settlements will require the reapproval of the cabinet. The aim is to find out what the existing situation is and to study it. The cabinet approved the draft proposal on extending the period of trial broadcasts of the second television channel.

The cabinet also approved the trip by the prime minister and defense minister to Egypt for an official visit at the invitation of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak this coming Tuesday. The foreign minister will be acting prime minister and defense minister during his absence. [end recording]

We will simply point out that the following ministers were appointed members of the Ministerial Committee on National Security Affairs: Yitzhaq Rabin; Shim'on Peres; Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer; Shulamit Aloni and Arye Der'i, those two based on the coalition agreement; David Liba'i; Avraham Shohat; Moshe Shahal; and Yisra'el Qeysar. Except for Rabin and Peres, all the others will serve in rotation because the law says that no more than half of the cabinet can serve on that committee. [passage omitted]

Likud Submits No-Confidence Motion on Peace Process

TA2007100292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] The leadership of the Likud Knesset faction this morning decided to submit a motion of no confidence in the government over what it called serious mistakes in the government's handling of the political process and its rash eagerness to make concessions.

Our Knesset affairs correspondent Hayim Hecht notes that three no-confidence motions will be heard next week. The motions were submitted by the Likud, the NRP [National Religious Party] and Tzomet.

At the meeting of the Likud faction, great anger was expressed at Israeli Television's intention to invite Faysal al-Husayni to appear on the Moqed topical interview program. Knesset Member Tzahi Hanegbi tabled an urgent motion for the agenda on this matter. He said that al-Husayni's invitation to Moqed constitutes a legitimization of the PLO.

King Discusses Baker Visit, Loans, Peace Process

NC2007091092 London BBC World Service in English 0500 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Interview with King Husayn by BBC correspondent Simon Ingram in Amman; date not given—recorded; first paragraph is introduction by BBC correspondent Oliver Scott]

[Text] [Scott] Our correspondent Simon Ingram has preceded [U.S. Secretary of State] Mr. Baker to the Jordanian capital, where he has been speaking to King Husayn, for some time a key figure in U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace efforts. He asked him whether he agreed with the Palestinians that it would be a bad idea for the U.S. to approve previously arranged loan guarantees at this point in the peace process.

[Husayn] I believe that the effort should be one to get the peace process started and to avoid creating any obstacles or causes for suspicion or distrust beyond this point. I hope that this is not a visit to create obstacles and I am sure it is not in his mind to do so, but to ensure that we move toward the establishment of a just, durable peace, which all of us need.

[Ingram] In other words, the release of those funds would constitute an obstacle?

[Husayn] The release of the funds to create settlements in the occupied territories would create a very serious situation in an area that is already mutilated by so much change that has occurred.

[Ingram] Some people say that what is happening in the region is really an unfreeing of the logjam, that the ice is really moving because of the conjunction of various events, in particular, of course, the arrival of power of the Labor government in Israel. Is that the way you see it? Do you sense that we are, in any sense, at a historic moment in the Middle East?

[Husayn] It is indeed a historic moment and I hope it is well taken. There is much wrong in the Middle East. But on the other hand, it is my belief here, [and] that of my people, that we cannot continue in this indecision to swim upstream. This is a big global village in which we all are living, and I hope that the time has come for us to move with the rest of the world to resolve the problems which have been the cause of instability in this entire region over many, many years and to give our people in this entire region a chance for a better future.

[Ingram] In the context of what you just said now, what you have seen of the actions and words of Prime Minister Rabin so far, does that encourage you to think that in Israel as well, there is a sensation that a crossroad has been reached and opportunity is there?

[Husayn] I feel that the Israeli public has indicated clearly and arbitrarily [as heard] through the recent elections that there is a very important crossroad, and they are hopefully pushing for peace, for a just peace, for a lasting peace. It is early times to say what will happen, but at least I can say that I am more optimistic than I have been for a long time.

King Stresses Value of 'Opportunity'

JN2007074292 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 20 Jul 92 p 1

[Text] London, QNA—His Majesty King Husayn has stated that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's Middle East visit and the new Israeli leadership have provided a real opportunity for a just and lasting settlement.

In an interview with the BBC, His Majesty emphasized the importance of not wasting this opportunity in the interest of all the parties and that of future generations.

His Majesty said the results of the recent general elections in Israel show the Israelis realize they are at a turning point and that they are ready for peace. However, he warned the United States that granting Israel the loan guarantees for the construction of further Jewish settlements will undermine the current feeling of optimism.

Amman To Advocate Total Withdrawal

NC1907165692 Paris AFP in English 1640 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] Amman, July 19 (AFP)—Jordan will tell Secretary of State James Baker during his visit here Tuesday that there can be no solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict without Israel's total withdrawal from occupied territory, Prime Minister Zayd Bin-Shakir said Sunday.

Shakir added that the Jordanian leadership expected "new American and Israeli ideas" from Baker, who visits here as part of a Mideast swing aimed at reviving the peace process.

The Jordanian premier told [word indistinct] that Jordan will repeat "its commitment to a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict based on a comprehensive settlement which guarantees total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem and which satisfies (the demands) of the Palestinian people."

He also rejected Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's proposal for the Jordanian, Syrian and Lebanese leaders to visit Jerusalem, saying such a meeting was "useless and unjustified."

Rabin issued the invitation to Arab neighbours last week, saying he was prepared to visit them himself.

Shakir warned against any "premature optimism" about the impact of the new Labour-led Israeli government on the peace process, adding: "We must wait for the resumption of negotiations in Rome and to see how the Israeli delegation behaves before we make a judgment on the new (Israeli) government."

The next round of Mideast peace (?talks are) scheduled to take place in Rome at an undetermined date.

Bin-Shakir Wary of Optimism

JN1907180192 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir said today that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who begins a tour of the region today, is bringing new ideas to the Middle East peace process. In an interview with AFP, the prime minister said Baker, who is expected to arrive in Amman Tuesday [21 July], must be carrying new American ideas, and perhaps new Israeli ideas. He said Baker's current tour came as a result of the Labor Party's victory in the Israeli elections and the formation of a new government by Yitzhaq Rabin, who has new ideas about the peace process that can be proposed.

Regarding talks the U.S. secretary of state will hold in Amman, the prime minister said that this will be an opportunity to reassert Jordan's position and consistent principles, which call for a comprehensive Middle East peace based on Israel's full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and the attainment of what the Palestinian people accept within this peace.

Commenting on the new Israeli Government led by the Labor Party and its effect on the peace process, the prime minister said: I see no reason for overoptimism; the optimism demonstrated by some sides is premature at this stage.

The prime minister expressed belief that Rabin's government is completely different from the previous government, at least as far as its approach to Middle East issues and the Arab-Israeli conflict is concerned. We cannot judge the inclinations of the new government before bilateral negotiations are resumed and the positivity of the Israeli delegation is checked, he said.

The prime minister pointed out that he is not convinced about Rabin's classification of settlements according to security and political concerns. He noted that Israel has embarked on settlement building since the 1967 war because of the need for security. He expressed conviction that the Israeli prime minister's decision to freeze the building of settlements is linked to Israel's endeavors to obtain $10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees. The loan guarantees play an important role in such decisions, he said.

Regarding Rabin's call for a meeting with the leaders of Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon to discuss peace, his excellency said: We do not need to play roles and appear together on television screens. He stressed that the position of Jordan, and all the Arab countries, will be decided depending on Israel's practices and whether it is really continuing the negotiations in a correct manner to reach a just and comprehensive solution.

Bin-Shakir Discusses Inter-Arab Relations

JN1907203592 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Report on interview with Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir by AFP in Amman on 19 July]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Asked about Jordanian-Palestinian relations, the prime minister reaffirmed once again Jordan's position that it is premature to discuss confederation between the two sides. This subject will be decided by the two fraternal peoples in due course, when the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories is achieved and the Palestinian entity is established, he said.

The prime minister said U.S. Secretary of State Baker's visit to Jordan will help improve bilateral ties and ease tension between the two sides, if not remove it completely. He said that this tension is unjustified and baseless because Jordan is committed to UN resolutions and has implemented everything decided by the Security Council. He explained that U.S. pressure has harmed Jordan, considering the excellent historical relations between the two countries.

His excellency stressed that the Jordanian authorities have not adopted new measures along Jordan's border with Iraq since the Security Council embargo was enforced.

He described U.S. press reports on Jordan's involvement in attempts to overthrow Iraqi President Saddam Husayn as nonsense. No two people in the world can possibly believe such claims, he said. He added that Jordan, which has suffered from outside interference in its affairs, does not interfere in the affairs of others.

Answering a question about inter-Arab relations, his excellency said: Jordan has long tried to close ranks and bring about coordinated positions to counter the enemies of Arabs. If Arab relations have reached the point of no return, then the blame does not lie with Jordan.

Six Deported Palestinians Arrive 17 Jul

JN1807075592 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18 July 92 p 1

[Text] Six Palestinians, expelled from the Israeli-occupied territories, arrived in Jordan to an emotional welcome Friday at the King Husayn Bridge. The Palestinians were greeted by senior Jordanian and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials. The six, all residents of refugee camps around the West Bank city of Nabulus, embraced PLO officials and wept as they looked behind and pointed at the mountains of occupied Jerusalem.

They were driven in four white vans of the International Committee of the Red Cross and crossed into Jordan around 8:40 p.m. (1740 GMT). A Jordanian army patrol escorted the vans as they crossed the brigde.

Expelled 'Students' Hold Briefing

JN1807193492 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] The six students, expelled from the al-Najah University in the occupied West Bank, sent greetings of pride and admiration to the sons of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and the diaspora for standing against the schemes of the Israeli occupation authorities which aim to obliterate their cause. They called on good and peace-loving forces and the friendly international institutions to pressure Israel into returning them to their homeland and university.

In a press conference held at the Palestinian embassy in Amman this afternoon, they emphasized their determination to continue the just national struggle to regain the Palestinian rights. They called on the Israeli Government to retract its decision to expel them and allow them to return within the next week. They also called on the Israeli Government to be armed with courage and return all Palestinian deportees.

Libyan Envoy Arrives in Amman, Makes Statement

JN1807165492 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text]'Abd-al-Raziq Sawsa', secretary general of the Libyan General People's Congress, arrived in Amman via al-Ramtha today on a three-day visit to Jordan.

Mr. Sawsa' spoke to our correspondent in the north concerning the purpose of this visit.

[Begin Sawsa' recording] In fact, I find this an opportunity provided by my colleague and brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat to convey the greetings of the brother leader of the 1 September revolution, to his brother His Majesty King Husayn, and to convey the greetings of the masses of the basic people's congresses to their brothers in fraternal Jordan.

I also find it an opportunity to greet all the popular organizations, professional unions, and committees which in fact continue to announce their support for the great republic in light of the threats and provocations it is facing, the most recent of which is the issuance of unjust resolutions and imposing repressive measures on the Great Jamahiriyah. In fact, the role of our brothers in fraternal Jordan, the fraternal Jordanian people, including all its organizations and groups, was a role that supports their brothers, the Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah. In fact, the attendance of Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat and his colleagues from the Jordanian House of Representatives, at three sessions held by the Arab Parliamentry Union in the Jamahiriyah is a clear indication of the fraternal Jordanian people's sympathy with and support for the Arab people in Libya.

In fact, it was clear from the begining that the relations between the two people, or between the united people of the Jamahiriyah and fraternal Jordan, have reached a point in which we could say that we are one people and that we stand a promising stand against what we are facing. [end recording]

Mr. Sawsa' was received by House of Representatives Speaker Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat, the Libyan ambassador in Amman, and a number of officials.

King Congratulates Saddam on Anniversary

JN1707182092 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 17 Jul 92 p 1

[Text] Amman—PETRA—His Majesty King Husayn has sent a cable of congratulations to his brother, His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, on Iraqi national day.

Following is the text of the cable:

Your Excellency President Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq, may God protect you: I am pleased, while the fraternal Iraqi people are celebrating the 24th anniversary of the national day of the fraternal Republic of Iraq, to extend to your excellency in my name, and on behalf of the people and Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, my deepest, heartfelt, and best congratulations. I beseech God Almighty to allow your excellency to observe this occasion next year while enjoying good health. I also beseech God Almighty to grant you success and bless your steps while leading the march of the fraternal Iraqi people, so that they will overcome all the difficulties they have encountered and achieve their aspired-for loftiness and prosperity.

'No Meeting' Between Baker, Buwayz Planned

NC2007072692 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Diplomatic sources stated that no meeting will be held between U.S. Secretary of States James Baker and Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, who refuses to meet with Baker outside Lebanon.

According to the sources, in the latest exchanges of views that took place through U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker, Baker informed Buwayz that he understands his position but that it is difficult for him to visit Lebanon for technical and logistical reasons and because he must be back in Washington on 26 July. Baker promised to visit Lebanon during any forthcoming tour of the region.

'Expanded' Meeting With Syria Postponed

NC2007064492 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] The Lebanese-Syrian expanded meeting, which was scheduled to take place in Zahlah yesterday, was postponed, because Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam is indisposed. The meeting will be replaced with contacts between President Ilyas al-Hirawi and a number of high-ranking Syrian officials.

It was reported that a senior Syrian official will visit Beirut in the next few days for talks with Lebanese officials about current developments.

Hizballah Leader on Rabin, Resistance, Elections

NC1707130092 Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 10 Jul 92 p 3

["Text" of a report on an interview with Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah by an unidentified QATARI NEWS AGENCY, QNA, correspondent in Beirut on 5 July]

[Excerpts] His Eminence Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah, secretary general of Hizballah in Lebanon, asserted that Yitzhaq Rabin's coming to power in the Israeli entity is no different than Yitzhaq Shamir's staying on as prime minister, because both of them adhere to a hostile policy against the Arabs and Muslims. He noted that any diversity in their policies is very small, restricted to methods and tactics, but not affecting substance, strategic constants, and expansionist dreams.

In an exclusive interview with QNA's correspondent in Beirut, Nasrallah expressed astonishment at the waves of optimism that swept some Arab and Islamic circles when Rabin came to power in Israel after beating Shamir in the elections. He explained that Rabin himself and his Labor Party have a well-known history of launching wars and assaults against the Arabs and Muslims from the time the Israeli entity was established.

Nasrallah ruled out the possibility that Israel under Labor Party rule will alter its stance and policy on south Lebanon and implement UN Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for ending the Israeli occupation. He noted that the Israeli stance on south Lebanon is a strategic one that is adopted by all successive Israeli governments, which refuse to withdraw from Lebanese territories except on the basis of a separate peace treaty with Lebanon along the lines of the defunct 17 May 1983 Accord. [passage omitted]

Sayyid Nasrallah reasserted that the Lebanese resistance movement is nationalist and Islamic and that it will continue as long as the occupation lasts because it is an act of struggle that began as a response to hostile invasion and occupation. He pointed out that the resistance movement's current objective is to sap the enemy's power, exert pressure, and inflict losses to compel it to leave and end its occupation under the burden of defeat and unbearable losses, just as was done following the 1982 invasion.

He added that the ultimate objective is to rouse the Arabs and Muslims, particularly the region's nations, to stand by the Lebanese people, bolster their steadfastness and jihad against the resistance, convince them that the people can do something for their homeland, and then make them actually participate in the resistance against the enemy by material and moral means and reject its expansionist plans and conditions. He noted that this is exactly what happened in the occupied territories when the Palestinian people carried out their intifadah against the occupation, thus giving credibility to the Lebanese popular resistance movement against occupation.

Sayyid Nasrallah rejected the calls to politicize the resistance movement, declaring: We will not politicize the resistance and refuse to subject it to political changes or conditions. We also refuse to let it harmonize with government policy objectives.

Nasrallah called on the government to harmonize its policy with the resistance rather than the contrary so that the resistance can become an open, governmental political decision that resists the occupation with the available capabilities and drives the enemy from the land, regardless of current political circumstances. He said: It is impermissible to confront the resistance with a political problem, because this will weaken it and strengthen the occupation. [passage omitted]

Regarding the hostage issue in Lebanon—the main activity of which is over, but the consequences of which remain—the Hizballah secretary general said this issue has not really ended because there are Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners of war and detainees in the Israeli enemy's hands. Indeed, he noted, these people are hostages in the enemy's jails and the jails of the pro-Israeli militia in the south and were kidnapped from their homes, like Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and others. He noted that there are Iranian hostages held by local parties in Lebanon and referred to the Israeli enemy's claim that there are missing Israeli soldiers in Lebanon.

Sayyid Nasrallah asked: Why does the world say that the foreign hostage problem has ended, when in fact it is continuing as long as there are hostages and detainees?

His Eminence Shaykh Nasrallah called on the Lebanese Government, international organizations, and all parties concerned with the issue to work seriously and effectively to resolve all the remaining complications in the hostage issue by continuing their efforts and endeavors to release Arab prisoners and detainees in the occupation prisons, together with the hostages, and to release the Iranian hostages, thus ending any other complications concerning foreign or Israeli hostages anywhere. He said this problem primarily concerns the Lebanese Government, which must act to put an end to it, especially regarding the Lebanese and Palestinian detainees who have been kidnapped or detained by the occupation on Lebanese territories.

He urged the government to form a special ministerial committee to follow up on this issue and also urged international organizations and bodies and foreign governments to prove the credibility of their calls for human rights by working to release these detainees and hostages. He said: We can agree to regard anyone on our side who is taken prisoner while fighting the occupation as a prisoner of war who should be treated according to international conventions. But a person kidnapped from his home or field is a hostage and should be released unconditionally. He expressed his deep regret over the absence of human and moral considerations in these issues following the departure of foreign hostages from Lebanon.

Regarding Hizballah's decision to participate in the coming parliamentary elections this summer, Nasrallah said: This decision surprised many. It was not a political propaganda ploy but a principled decision based on the premise that every party or political group that has its own views and political role has the right to express these views and reflect the stand of the popular base it represents. The best venue for this is the parliament, where views on various issues can be presented. [passage omitted]

Regarding the Lebanese Government's call to all parties and groups in Lebanon to hand over whatever light weapons they still have to the state by 21 August, Nasrallah said that Hizballah has no weapons to upset the security situation or to be used for domestic war and sedition. He said its weapons are used only for resistance and that Hizballah has no concern but the resistance.

In reply to a question on the party's Arab and Islamic relations and ties with the Islamic movements in the Arab arena, Nasrallah said: At the Arab countries' level, we have strong and good relations with Syria in view of its position and its influence over the political and security situation in Lebanon. It is supporting Lebanon by providing it with the elements of strength that enable it to confront the Israeli aggression and Israel's constant political pressure.

He added: We do not have relations with countries now, but we open our arms to all and wish to have good relations with all the Arab and Islamic countries. We are maintaining good ideological, political, and information relations with a number of Islamic and national movements and parties in the Arab and Islamic world. Generally speaking, there could be meetings between us in general.

Nasrallah stressed that Hizballah is on the verge of establishing pivotal and central relations with everyone and of opening its arms to everyone inside and outside the country for the sake of Lebanon's and Palestine's causes, which we consider as the criteria and basis for our relations with all .

He categorically denied Western media and political statements about the party's intention to bring in Afghan mujahidin to fight with it against Israel in south Lebanon. He said that such statements are allegations and baseless claims that aim to incite fear in the West. He stressed that the Lebanese and Arab Muslim youth have enough vigor to enable them to resist Israel. He added: Yet, we will not reject any assistance from any Arab, Muslim, or any other people who believe in our right and the legitimacy of our cause.

Ja'ja' Calls For Strike To Protest Elections

NC2007104492 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0844 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Statement by Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' at a news conference at Lebanese Forces Headquarters in al-Karantina, Beirut—live]

[Excerpts] As a citizen and as a man in a position of responsibility, I call on the president, the prime minister, and all executive branch officials to take action to save the Second Republic, now in its death throes. We were the first to support the national reconciliation process, and we paid more dearly than anyone when that process deviated from its course. Today, this has reached the extent that it threatens not just one party but the very existence of the nation.

For two years we have watched in horror as the implementation of the al-Ta'if Accord deviated from the letter and spirit of the agreement. Instead of correcting the situation, certain officials reacted to our concerns with prejudice, harassment, and threats, and proceeded to impose war conditions on us even though it was a time of peace. Governments with tilted political loyalties were formed under the pretext of national reconciliation.

Hopes for political harmony and national reconciliation dimmed even further with the decision to disband the militias. Certain militias were disbanded and others were not. The country took its cue from non-Lebanese powers. [passage omitted]

Now, like jugglers, certain officials have come up with the idea of holding elections that are unnecessary and rigged; their outcome is predictable. There is currently great popular, political, and spiritual opposition to holding elections. This does not seem to bother certain

people, who continue to scorn the principles that the Lebanese people agreed to following daunting negotiations and the receipt of Arab and international guarantees. The number of deputies proposed for this election was rejected in al-Ta'if. Using governorates as electoral districts is a travesty. Electoral districts were manipulated, mangled, and arbitrarily torn apart. [passage omitted]

We call for all Lebanese sectors and areas to stage a peaceful general strike for one day on Thursday, 23 July 1992. This strike will declare the Lebanese people's commitment to freedom, dignity, and reconciliation. This strike will register our protest against the current situation and the deterioration in every aspect of our lives. This strike will express our dismay at the tampering with the national reconciliation process and our rejection of the political, social, and economic situation the government has led us into. Last but not least, this strike will express the Lebanese people's solidarity, as individuals and groups, in the face of the authorities' attempts to control, manipulate, and suppress them. [passage omitted]

Al-Sulh, Patriarch View Elections, Issues

NC1707141892 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0900 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh visited Bkirki at 1000 today and met with Patriarch Sfayr.

After the meeting, al-Sulh said that their talks dealt with living and social conditions and the need to alleviate the burdens on citizens, adding: I briefed his beatitude on the measures adopted by the government. We also discussed the situation in the south; we hope it will soon be liberated from Israeli occupation.

Answering a question, al-Sulh said: We also discussed the issue of the parliamentary elections. His beatitude opposes them in principle. We did not go into detail.

The prime minister stressed his desire to maintain accord among all Lebanese communities, saying that this accord remains stronger than the propaganda designed to harm it.

PSP, Communists To Take Part in Election

NC1807160292 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0430 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Excerpts] Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] leader Walid Junblatt criticized the way in which the election law was passed, saying it ignored certain demands and rights. Junblatt warned that further inroads against freedoms may follow, saying: This is how democracy works these days. A single article has deprived the Druze community of its rights to representation, jobs, and, maybe, development. A single article has denied Sidon, Iqlim al-Kharrub, and Beirut their rights. [passage omitted]

The PSP Election Committee held a plenary meeting chaired by Walid Junblatt. PSP members of the Chamber of Deputies attending. Afterward it was announced that PSP Deputy Leader Lawyer Durayd Yaghi will be the party's candidate for the Ba'labakk-al-Hirmil electoral district. The names of the candidates in other areas will be announced in light of consultations between the PSP Political Communications Committee and friendly and allied forces.

The National Liberal Party's Higher Council said that holding the election is a recipe for internal sedition that could destroy that that has been accomplished for national harmony and reconciliation. The decision to hold the election, the council added, entails a certain defiance of the national will and ignores the wishes of a large section of the public, including influential spiritual and political leaders. The council issued a statement saying: If the government announces an election date, we call on everyone, particularly the leaders, to stand up to this grievous challenge, assume a unified position, and boycott these elections in practice of a legitimate right endorsed by the democratic principles in which the Lebanese political regime is embedded.

The Lebanese Communist Party has announced that it will take part in the Lebanese parliamentarian election with two goals in mind: One is to support the representatives of the national movement and the forces fighting the Israeli occupation and defending Lebanon's unity, pan-Arabism, and democracy. The other is to get the party's candidates into the Chamber of Deputies. The party called for the widest possible participation in the elections.

Editorial Criticizes Election Seat Allocations

NC1807140892 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 7 Jul 92 p 1

[Editorial by Chief Editor Charles Ayyub: "Rigging Elections Before Holding Them"]

[Text] Only the government is worse than those opposing elections.

No one stands to gain more from opposing the election than the exploitative government.

And worse than these two is the mechanism and the way in which the People's Assembly is discussing the election law. It is as if representing the popular will is a process that needs to be gone over again and again, while the Lebanese people continue to be degraded.

Let us start with this election. It seems it will be held in line with standards that are wrong and in an atmosphere from which freedom is absent. If this is confirmed, boycotting the election is a duty. I will also cancel my nomination for the Beirut province, because it would be a disgrace for me to take part in an election that is not free or to accept support from any party or side.

While we realize we are not in Utopia, we demand, nevertheless, nominal national understanding of the election law. But the government and the Chamber of Deputies have no notion of the meaning of these concepts, so the Chamber accepted the quota of the district as part of the province. While we have questions we would like to ask officials about the mechanism and fairness of the election and their true expression of the popular will, we wish officials would answer our questions showing some respect for themselves and the people's queries. Issues should not be camouflaged or covered up.

1. Why has Jabal Lubnan province been accepted as districts, not as a province? Can any official justify this step, except within the framework of preserving sectarian feudalism?

2. Why and in whose interest has a fifth Maronite seat been allocated for the Kasrawan district? Why has a Maronite seat been allocated in Tripoli, where the number of Maronites is 4,500, while no Maronite seat has been allocated in al-Dinniyah district, where their number totals 5,500?

3. In whose interest has the district been adopted in al-Biqa' province and for whom was this tailored?

4. In whose interest has the Orthodox Christian seat been transferred from Beirut to al-Kurah district? We are not opposed to adding seats to the various regions, but we are opposed to fickleness and tampering with the election law on a basis that is not national and amending it according to the interests of individuals, without considering the people's interest.

5. How could a Lebanese citizen run in the election, Mr. Interior Minister, when his home district does not have a seat for his sect, especially after the province principle has been canceled and the district has been adopted as an electoral constituency?

6. If government employees are asked to resign so as not to benefit from their influences, how can ministers continue to occupy major portfolios, such as the Ministries of Interior, Defense, Finance, and Foreign Affairs, and yet run in the election at the same time?

7. Is it true, Mr. Defense Minister, that there are—according to talk on the street—some officers who are working for your election interests in al-Matn al-Shamali and attempting to shift General 'Awn's current in your favor?

On what basis do you, Mr. Defense Minister, give licenses for weapons? And could the Lebanese people be told whether this distribution of weapons is in the interest of every nominee or only in the interest of certain electoral constituencies?

8. Mr. Interior Minister, since you are responsible for supervising the election, how can you guarantee that it will be free when elections were not relatively free during President Fu'ad Shihab's time [president of Lebanon from 1958-1964], when you were one of the active officers who supported the government nominees against those of the opposition? Will the election be held freely, as you declared on Lebanese television, or will the experience of the Shihab era be repeated?

The government is worse than the opposition and the opposition worse than the government. We are torn between two groups that know only narrow and personal interests. We are also before a Chamber of Deputies that has resigned from its role and whose role now seems to be rubber-stamping prepared decrees. No one wants the deputies to discuss things, because there are those who are ready to silence them according to the law.

The government says it wants free elections. We tell it that it says one thing and does the opposite. If it goes on in this way, there will be election rigging unprecedented since that during the presidency of Bisharah al-Khuri in 1947.

The elections, if held, will see the votes going to prepared lists, but they will be uglier than by appointment. The lists will represent the coalition of idiotic feudalism, sick sectarianism, and militias that killed the people with the collaboration of feudalism and sectarianism. The names of some other figures will of course be included in the lists.

Unless the election process is changed and the government comes forward with real guarantees, the election will appear as prearranged. Electoral districts and governorates have been tailored to fit specific individuals and allies and the coalitions will also be arranged to guarantee the outcome. There will be closed lists, guaranteed success through influence, regime backing, and legitimate and illicit funds from here and there.

Everything appears to have been prepared for electing a chamber with known names. Does this express the people's will, the only elections held during President Ilyas al-Hirawi's term in office, which he wants to leave for posterity?

Does Speaker Husayn al-Husayni want this hastiness and tailoring of issues to fit the interests of individuals and groups?

Does the government want sectarianism and feudalism, which the people have rejected, to invade the country?

Do the allies of Damascus want to present a grim picture of elections held in the shadow of Syria's presence instead of presenting a bright picture that serves the interests of Lebanon and Syria and reinforces in the people's minds President al-Asad's oft- repeated statement that Syria supports Lebanon and is not on any side against the other?

We call on the government to be serious. We also call on the Chamber to be likewise and to shoulder its responsibility. The election should take place, but, more importantly, it should express the popular will. The people's will is the highest criteria in society. The people remain the source of authority because societies are formed and states established with people in them. Respect, o officials, your Lebanese people.

Defense Minister Delegates Power to Lahhud

NC1707210792 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Defense Minister Michel al-Murr issued a decision conferring his powers on Army Commander General Emile Lahhud so that Lahhud may implement the Cabinet decisions to extend the state's authority throughout Lebanon; collect heavy, medium, and light weapons; conduct raids; and implement the first phase of returning displaced people to their villages.

The decision said that conferring these powers on the Army commander is necessary. The commander will exercise the powers objectively to ensure free and honest elections. This will prevent anyone from interpreting the actions of the political authorities as being motivated by partisan interests.

Media Preview Baker's Middle East Tour

Daily Notes Conditions for Success

JN1807104292 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 18 Jul 92

[From the Press Review]

[Text] In an article headlined "No Peace With Occupation," AL-THAWRAH writes about the Middle East peace process and the upcoming regional tour by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. AL-THAWRAH writes: For the Baker tour to benefit the peace efforts and the achievement of a comprehensive and just solution, the constants of the peace process must be underlined; Israel's violations must not be allowed to continue; and the rejection of loan guarantees must be maintained. The Arabs, who responded to the peace efforts, will not relinquish their rights. There will be no peace as long as any part of the Arab territory continues to be occupied.

Radio Views Baker Visit to Israel

JN1807151892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 18 Jul 92

[station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The U.S. secretary of state's tour of the Middle East begins tomorrow with a visit to Israel to sound out the intentions of Rabin's Government and the extent of its willingness to be involved in the peace process. It is certain that this time Baker will not be met by the construction of a number of Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab territories, as Shamir used to meet him.

Yitzhaq Rabin, head of the new Israeli Government, began to partially freeze settlements for a temporary period of time aiming at getting the U.S. loan guarantees and securing the necessary aid to rid the Zionist entity of its stifling economic crisis.

Moreover, Baker in Israel will find himself in front of officials who speak a contemporary language. Yet, he will not find officials who are commited to the policy of peace and its requirements, who pledge to implement UN resolutions, and who declare that peace is more important than taking land here and there.

This is especially so since some of Israel's new rulers continue to harbor expansionist dreams. Yitzhaq Rabin did not hide his intention to continue what he calls security settlements. Since he assumed authority, Rabin was eager to appear before the Arabs and the world as an extremeist hawk, not less violent or bloody than Shamir, his predecessor. This is demonstrated in the siege he imposed on al-Najah University in Nabulus, the expulsion of another number of Palestinians to Jordan, the invading Israeli forces' continued shelling of areas in southern Lebanon, and exercising the "iron fist" and "scorched earth" policy.

Yitzhaq Rabin so far did not commit himself to exchanging land for peace and implementing UN Security Council resolutions. Moreover, he did not show willingness to fully withdraw from the Arab territories and grant the Palestinians their right to self- determination. Rabin has demonstrated the truth behind his expansionist schemes when he announced the permanent annexation of Jerusalem, refusal to withdraw from the Golan, and continued settlement building in the frontline positions; namely, the Golan, the Jordan valley, and the Jerusalem area. These Zionist settlements are advanced offensive trenches and a direct threat against Syria, Jordan, and the Palestinian people. Thus, they are a contradiction to peace. Peace should supposedly accomplish detente and stability. It should also eliminate the causes for worry and tension. Such armed settlements will maintain the roots of the conflict. They are similar to time bombs which threaten to ignite fires in the Middle East at any time.

President Bush and Secretary of State Baker, on behalf of the U.S. Administration, have pledged to achieve a just and comprehensive settlement on all the fronts of the conflict based on the land for peace principle and implementing UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

This very simply means that the Arabs should join a real peace and Israel should return all the occupied territories to the Arabs in implementation of UN resolutions and in line with the calls of international legitimacy and its rejection of gaining land by force and war.

But Rabin, who promised the United States an autonomy for the Palestinians, does not talk at all about withdrawing from the Golan or southern Lebanon and does not pledge to stop settlements in a final and decisive manner. The solutions Rabin is proposing, are no more than fragmentary and mutilated solutions that are very far from achieving the desired just and comprehenive settlement. Such solutions are a preparation for new wars in the Middle East and do not ensure a real peace and settlement that should assist in providing a suitable life to tens of millions of the region's people.

Rabin's proposals certainly contradict the essence of the U.S. initiative. They will not contribute to essential progress in the peace process. Hence, granting Rabin the huge loans he is requesting will negatively reflect on the peace issue and encourage the new rulers of Israel to be more arrogant. The U.S. loans will ultimately be used in the settlement project, whatever they are called, and U.S. credibility will lose a lot in return.

The United States has a real opportunity to give momentum to the peace process and rid the Middle East of the whirlpool of war and turmoil, if it shows the necessary decisiveness toward Israel's schemes and refuses to provide aid to it unless its rulers pledge to fully and comprehensively stop settlement building and adhere to UN Security Council resolutions and the land for peace principle.

Syria and the Arabs, who truely and sincerely responded to the peace efforts, will not give up their territory and rights to anyone. They are the ones who deserve security guarantees. Their land is occupied and danger is threatening them. The accomplishment of a just peace, which removes all causes of oppression and repression and cancels the occupation, is in everyone's interest. Hence, there will be no peace with the continuation of oppression, and occupation.

Dailies View Tour, 'Possibilities'

JN1907112192 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 19 Jul 92

[From the Press Review]

[Text] The newspapers AL-BA'TH, AL-THAWRAH, and TISHRIN focus on U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's tour and the possibilities that they expect him to counter at the first leg of his tour in Israel.

AL-BA'TH says that the U.S. secretary, who will arrive for the sake of the peace process, will find that the primary interest of the Rabin government is the question of loans which were frozen in the Shamir era. AL-BA'TH deems it premature to talk about the results of Baker-Rabin talks. However, the paper affirms that Washington has a real chance to push the peace process forward by affirming its credibility.

AL-BA'TH says: It must be indicated that a sufficient role should be given to the United Nations and European states in this effort. This is because the forthcoming stage of the peace negotiations require an international unanimity that requires Israel to stop procrastination and maneuvering and offer more evidence about its desire for peace. This means that the stage of circumventing the peace process is over. It is required to put Israel to the real test.

In an article, AL-THAWARH warns against giving Israel loan guarantees. The paper says: Undoubtedly, Baker's tour, which comes after the authority changes in Israel, and the results of this tour will be among the most important factors deciding the future of the peace process and showing the extent of U.S. credibility in the peace process.

AL-THAWRAH adds: U.S. credibility does not mean giving or not giving loan guarantees to Israel, but means whether Washington is confident that Rabin will respond to the peace process in accordance with the bases proposed by the same U.S. initiative which stems from UN resolutions.

For its part, the newspaper TISHRIN recalls the Israeli obstacles that faced every visit by the U.S. secretary to the region. TISHRIN affirms that America is fully capable of saving the peace process and has all the cards to convince the new Rabin government to respond to the conditions, bases, and principles of peace. The paper says: The hopes actually pinned on Baker's tour should not vanish or decline when the results of this tour become clear. TISHRIN adds that the responsibility of launching and activating the peace process in a sound and serious manner is an Israeli and U.S. responsibility. This responsibility begins by not circumventing the facts of the conflict in the region, not looking for separate solutions, and not dealing separately with any Arab party. More importantly, Israel should acknowledge that occupation and peace cannot meet and that security is the outcome of peace, not vice versa. In other words, eagerness to seek peace requires a full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and acknowledging the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

'Unique Opportunity' Seen

JN1907151592 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Prior to the arrival of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Israel today, Yitzhaq Rabin has renewed his determination to both advance the peace process and preserve the Zionist entity's security, as though peace and security were contradictory, not complementary.

Quarters close to the U.S. Administration have observed that Washington cannot adopt Rabin's division of settlement activity into security and political settlements. Settlement activity, in all its forms, conflicts with principles of international law and UN resolutions and obstructs peace.

If Rabin were true in his peace moves, as he claims daily, then he should drop the security pretext, which has long been used by successive Israeli governments as a cover for expansion at the expense of Arab territory.

If we review developments over the past 40 years, we will clearly see that Israel is the party committing aggression and occupation, displacing Arab residents, confiscating their property, and destroying their homes and villages. Israel is also the party incessantly shelling southern Lebanon, escalating repression in the occupied territories, and threatening peace and security in the region, if not the whole world.

The Arabs have always been victims of rising Zionist aggression. Palestinians were displaced from their homes, and residents of occupied Golan had to leave their land. Even the city of al- Qunaytirah was completely destroyed by invading Zionist forces, as part of a campaign bearing hatred and vindictiveness toward Arabs and reflecting the aggressive, expansionist, and racist approach of Zionism.

Proceeding from all these indelible facts, the Arabs are in greater need of security guarantees, and not Israel. The Arabs have sincerely and responsibly responded to peace efforts and the U.S. initiative, considering real peace, which eliminates the cause of injustice and oppression

and reverses occupation; a guarantee for everybody. In fact, it is the actual guarantee for Israel itself.

So how can the Arabs respond to a settlement that maintains the Israeli threat to the Palestinian people and keeps their territory in the grip of occupation? However, the Arabs are bound to respond to a settlement that uproots injustice and oppression and allows the sons of the region to devote their resources and efforts toward development and prosperity.

No one is unaware of the Arabs' fear that Rabin's assurances might turn out to only be a maneuver to secure U.S. loan guarantees, especially since these assurances have not been coupled with a complete halt of settlement activity in the occupied Arab territories, nor with a clear commitment to implement Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

What increased Arab fears is Rabin's announcement that Israel will continue to establish what he termed security settlements; that is, its occupation of the Golan, Jerusalem, and the Jordan Valley.

The Arabs have asserted, on more than one occasion, that they will never deal with occupation; that peace and occupation cannot coexist; that full Israeli withdrawal from their territories is a must; and that no power on earth can force them to give in to enemy schemes and expansionist ambitions.

U.S. Secretary of State Baker, who begins one of his most important tours of the region today, is called on, therefore, to dot the i's and explain the basics of peace in the region, primarily returning territory in full and establishing the Palestinian people's rights.

Peace now has a unique opportunity. The United States, the world, and all the institutions of the international community, are asked to exercise their weight to bring about a just and durable peace in the Middle East. By achieving such peace, the whole world stands to gain, considering that world stability is linked to Middle East stability.

Khaddam Cited on Support for Lebanese Parties

JN1707181692 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam stated: We in Syria support all Lebanese parties and we want to have good relations with everybody. He added: Our doors are open to whomever wants to benefit from this relationship to serve Lebanon.

In an interview with the Lebanese newspaper, L'ORIENT LE JOUR, published in its latest issue, Khaddam said: We in Syria are committed to the support and backing of the Lebanese National Accord Charter. We are totally committed to implementing the clauses related to Syria.

He pointed out that there were three factors that underpin Syrian-Lebanese relations. First, the fraternal relations between the two countries. Second, the Fraternity, Cooperation, and Coordination Treaty, which organizes these relations. Third, the Lebanese National Charter, which we support and back.

Speaking about Lebanese elections, the vice president said: The elections process started by the Lebanese government is a sound and wise process, since it is the material and moral expression of moving from the stage of war to the stage of peace. Therefore, we have supported the steps being taken by the Lebanese Government to hold elections shortly. He asserted that those who do not want the elections in fact do not want to see the peace march in Lebanon continue.

Khaddam also said that Lebanon was proceeding on the way to stability, and that it would achieve sufficient peace and full security on all Lebanese soil. He referred to the steps achieved in this direction, adding: If we only examine the situation in Lebanon in the past two years, we will find that Lebanon has made large strides on the way to stability and peace. Only two years ago, the capital was divided into two parts, and it was very difficult for any Lebanese to move from one place to another in his country. Now, however, we find that all roads are accessible.

The vice president expressed confidence that our Lebanese brothers would overcome any difficulty that might stand in the way of stability and accord. He affirmed that Syria, which has helped unite the Lebanese Army and supplied it with weapons, will continue to support an back up Lebanon to enhance the role of the state and that of its institutions.

On the chances of achieving peace in the Middle East in the wake of the Israeli Labor Party's victory in the recent elections, Khaddam said: If we examine Yitzhaq Rabin's statements, we cannot be optimistic, because he still insists on maintaining settlement activity and occupation of territories. Consequently, he has not given any signs that call for optimism. Nevertheless, negotiations will continue. When negotiators meet, we can then exactly say if the new Israeli Government will or not seriously change Shamir's policy. It is premature, therefore, to say definitely that the Rabin government will take any serious steps.

Arabs Urged Not To Compromise With Israel

JN2007081792 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 20 Jul 92

[From the Press Review]

[Text] AL-BA'TH editorializes on Rabin's evasion of the peace process. The paper says: Rabin's only aim is to obtain all that Israel wants from America, and from the West in general, particularly the loan guarantees. The loan guarantees are the most important item in the

program of the Rabin government because of the difficult economic situation the enemy entity is suffering.

AL-BA'TH adds: The policy statement of the Rabin government makes no mention of any possible commitment to the international resolutions or to complete and comprehensive withdrawal from the occupied Arab territory as a basic condition to achieve a peaceful settlement that guarantees security and stability in the region. Rabin and his government only expressed readiness to speak about Palestinian administrative rule. However, with regard to the Golan and southern Lebanon, Rabin said frankly that discussion of these issues does not exist in his program.

AL-BA'TH says: Representatives of Arab countries will meet in Damascus within a few days to discuss what should be done during the next stage of the peace process. We should reiterate here that the conferees should agree on a program that underlines the pan-Arab constants in our conflict with the Israeli enemy. They should also fully adhere to these constants, and consequently, not make any concessions to Israel.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH stresses the importance of the Damascus meeting, noting that we should all realize that we are not forced to make any kind of concessions. The paper says: It is true that some of what is currently taking place here and there may not be in the interest of the Arabs, however, the future is certainly for the Arabs if they know how to deal with others in a harmonious way with regard to our pan-Arab rights.

Afghanistan

Uzbek Militia, Hezb Forces Trade Fire in Kabul

BK1907164892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1647 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] Kabul, July 19 (AFP)—Uzbek militias and forces of a radical Pashtun faction exchanged heavy fire in Kabul late Sunday, a spokesman for the group said as the conflict in the war-ravaged Afghan capital widened.

Kabul has already been rocked by two days of bloody street fighting between the Shiite Hezb-e Wahdat faction and the Sunni Ittihad-e Eslami. The fighting has left an estimated 60 people dead and left more than 150 injured.

A spokesman for the Hezb-e Eslami faction of radical Pashtun leader Golboddin Hekmatyar said late Sunday the Uzbeks had started pounding Hezb positions south of Kabul "without provocation."

Qaribur Seyyed, a close aide to Prime Minister 'Abdol Sabur Farid, told AFP by telephone from the prime minister's office that Hezb forces positioned in the hills on the outskirts of Kabul had returned the fire.

Explosions rocked the city and smoke swelled up from several points by rockets and shells.

Seyyed said he had no information about any casualities, but rockets could be heard landing in populated localities, raising fears of considerable damage and casualties. No details were available from officials or hospitals.

Seyyed said Farid was making hectic efforts to bring to an end the fighting in all parts of the city.

Contacts had been made with Uzbek commanders, Seyyed said.

The exchange of heavy fire continued for an hour and seemed to have subsided by sunset, residents in the area said.

'Heavy' Fighting Noted

BK1907000292 Hong Kong AFP in English 1840 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] Kabul, July 18 (AFP)—Heavy fighting broke out in southern Kabul late Saturday, and sources said the exchange of gunfire was between government forces and a Shiite group holding on to several government buildings.

The thud of what appeared to be cannon and rockets could be heard in southern Kabul, but further details on the fighting were not available.

Sources said security forces of the Islamic government that took over in Kabul on June 28 had entered government buildings in the southern Districts of Karta-i-Se and Karta-i-Char to clear them of fighters of the Iran-backed Hezb-e-Wahdat Shiite group.

The Wahdat fighters have held some of the buildings since the April 28 collapse of the communist government.

'Scores' of Casualties Cited

BK1907073092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0724 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] Kabul, July 19 (AFP)—Rocket and artillery fire continued to rock Kabul on Sunday after heavy fighting erupted the day before, leaving scores dead and wounded, residents and hospital sources said.

The fighting involved the Shura-e-Nazaar forces of Afghanistan's defence minister Ahmed Shah Mas'ud and Hezb-e-Wahdat fighters in predominantly Shiite districts, the sources said.

"Rockets and shells are falling continously in our area," a Wahdat spokesman said, adding that scores of people had been killed and injured.

There was no immediate official casualty toll.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said its hospitals had received a total of 300 injured patients as of Sunday morning, including 65 who had been admitted since late Saturday.

Most came from the Chandawal area of southern Kabul.

Shiite Leader Blames Sunnis

BK1907085292 Hong Kong AFP in English 0844 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] Kabul, July 19 (AFP)—Rocket and artillery fire continued to rock Kabul on Sunday after heavy fighting erupted the day before, leaving at least 60 dead and hundreds wounded, residents and hospital sources said.

"More than 60 people have so far died and many more injured," General Khudadad Hazara, a top Shiite leader, told AFP by telephone, as gunfire echoed in the background.

Khudadad blamed the radical Sunni Moslem Ittehad-e Eslami faction for attacking strongholds of the Shiite Hezb-e Wahdat and said the "fire was being returned."

The fierce fighting was the second outbreak between Wahdat and Ittehad, backed by Iran and Saudi Arabia respectively, since early June when more than 100 died.

Apart from the apparently religious sectarian clashes, the Wahdat is locked in a row with the Afghan interim government over its demand for a share of power.

The latest outbreak of fighting came amid a cleanout operation begun by Defence Ministry and Interior Ministry forces about two weeks ago to clear the city of unwanted armed mojahedin.

Khudadad said there had been some skirmishes between Wahdat and government forces on Saturday, but he blamed Sunday's fighting on the Ittehad.

Earlier sources had said the fighting involved the Shoora-e Nazaar forces of Afghan Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and Wahdat fighters in predominantly Shiite districts.

"Rockets and shells are falling continously in our area," a Wahdat spokesman said earlier.

There was no immediate official casualty toll.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said its hospitals had received a total of 300 injured patients as of Sunday morning, including 65 who had been admitted since late Saturday.

Most came from the Chandawal area of southern Kabul.

Sources said the worst affected areas included the Wahdat-controlled parts of Kabul where houses have been wrecked by rocket and cannon fire causing "heavy casualties."

The Wahdat representing the minority Hazara Shiite community, is locked in a prolonged dispute with the interim government over its demand for a share in power.

Residents in southwest Kabul said Ettehad fighters and troops from Mas'ud's Shura-e Nazaar force were jointly engaged against the Wahdat.

The gunbattle was triggered after an official statement here warned unwanted armed groups to quit Kabul. It has asked the controversial militia to assist the cleanout operation jointly conducted by the Defence and Interior Ministries.

The government statement, broadcast late Saturday, also threatened "extreme penalties" for any defiance by troops from the 80th Division, which belongs to an Ismaili strongman from the country's (word indistinct) General Syed Jaffar Nadeiri and the 53rd Division headed by Uzbek General Abdorrashid Dostom.

The official warning came soon after a meeting between Mas'ud and the interim Prime Minister 'Abdol Sabur Farid, whose Hezb-e Eslami faction headed by radical leader Golboddin Hekmatyar has been insisting on the pullout of Dostam's northern militia, a former communist ally.

A general from Dostom's militia said his men did not want to fight the mojahedin, but added they would not leave Kabul, a clear challenge to the interim government.

The warning was also addressed to the armed groups who have been "creating distrubances" in the city, an apparent reference to mojahedin of various factions who poured into the city after the collapse of the communist regime in April.

These groups have since occupied important government buildings and private premises.

Rival Groups Agree to Cease-Fire

BK1907095892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0956 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Excerpt] Kabul, July 19 (AFP)—Rival mojahedin groups agreed on a cease-fire Sunday after bitter factional fighting which erupted the day before left at least 60 dead and hundreds wounded, a spokesman of the Shiite Hezb-e Wahdat here said.

Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and Interior Minister Ahmad Shah mediated the cease-fire, spokesman Agha Mohammed Ali Mazari said.

Occassional thuds of heavy guns and sporadic artillery fire could still be heard as Mazari told reporters the Wahdat and its main rival the Ittehad-e Eslami faction of Abdolrab Rasool Sayyaf had agreed on a cease-fire.

No comment was immediately available from Ittehad or the defence ministry. [passage omitted]

Clearance Operation Resumes After Kabul Clashes

BK2007071592 Hong Kong AFP in English 0655 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Kabul, July 20 (AFP)—Afghan interim government forces resumed an operation Monday to clear armed bands from Kabul streets and buildings they unlawfully occupy, officials said.

As government forces fanned out to continue the security sweep the city appeared calm following Sunday's fighting between Shiite Hezb-e-Wahdat and Sunni Ettehad-e-Eslami factions in which an estimated 60 people died and hundreds were wounded.

"The operation by joint mojahedin forces is going on," Interior Minister Ahmad Shah said.

Shah told AFP the operation was going ahead despite "problems, in order to achieve complete security and order in the city."

He said about 40 percent of Kabul had been cleared of unwanted armed groups, but he could not say when the entire work would be completed.

Shah described the fighting, which he said was mainly between Wahdat and Ettehad, as "unfortunate" and added such "obstacles were expected."

Asked about Wahdat statements blaming his party for the bloodshed, Shah, a close aide of Ettehad's chief Rasul Sayyaf, said "we should not engage in accusations."

"There are some elements in every group who create difficulties," the interior minister said.

Wahdat, he said, were participating in the governing leadership council and political problems with them "have been resolved."

As for their representation in cabinet, he said the issue would be settled in a week's time.

Wahdat demands a share of power for the minority Shiite community largely made up of central Afghanistan's Hazara tribes.

Official sources said Shah and Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud are jointly supervising the clean up operation.

Shah said did not expect any resistance from Wahdat as they had "agreed" to hand over government buildings taken over by them.

A number of heavily armed mojahedin groups seized strategic positions and government and private buildings as the communist regime of deposed leader Najibollah collapsed in late April.

Rabbani Accused of Changing Position

LD1807185492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] A tense atmosphere without armed clashes engulfed Kabul today. Our correspondent in Kabul reports that the forces of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami and the Hezb-e Ettehad-e Eslami, on the one hand, and the forces of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and Sayyaf, on the other hand, have begun detaining and arresting one another's forces this morning.

It is being said that the disturbances have their roots in the carelessness of Rabbani, head of the interim Islamic government, in connection with the implementation of agreements between the government and the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami. According to the agreement signed by Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, the previous head of the interim goverenment, the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami was supposed to have eight representatives on the consultative council and also be in charge of three ministries. However, once Rabbani took over, he went against these points. Members of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami believe that Rabbani has changed his position since his visit to Saudi Arabia and that he is putting pressure on Ahmad Shah Mas'ud.

It is being said that the recent clashes in Kabul started as a result of provocation by the Hezb-e Ettehad-e Eslami. One of the active members of the Afghan supervisory council and the Hezb-e Jam'iyat-e Eslami has said: Mysterious hands are active in Afghanistan with the aim of creating instability.

Our correspondent's report from Kabul also states that the people of that city are extremely worried about the current situation. There is also insecurity in other regions and hardly a night goes by without several ordinary people being killed in their own houses.

Talks on Improving Ties With Tajikistan Noted

LD1907190392 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 15 Jul 92

[Text] Esteemed Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, minister of defense of the Islamic State of Afghanstan, met in his office this morning a high-ranking delegation of the Republic of Tajikistan which has come to Kabul, headed by Akbarsho Iskandarov, acting chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan.

The BAKHTAR military section reported to us that at the start of the meeting the esteemed minister of defense welcomed the delegation to Afghanistan. The Tajikistan delegation then expressed congratulations on the success and installation of the Islamic revolution, which is the fruit of the 14-year jehad waged by the Afghanistan's mojahedin.

The two sides also talked about expanding, consolidating, and improving relations and promoting all-around cooperation. They decided that, to ensure that this is implemented, the two countries will exchange delegations of experts.

At the end of the meeting the head of the Republic of Tajikistan's delegation invited esteemed Ahmad Shah Mas'ud to pay a visit to the Republic of Tajikistan.

Bangladesh

Spokesman Views Burmese Refugee Issue

BK1907131292 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] The seventh official-level meeting between Bangladesh and Myanmar [Burma] will be held on Thursday [23 July] next at Maungdaw. Briefing newsmen in Dhaka Sunday, a Foreign Office spokesman said the Bangladesh side expressed formal response to its earlier proposal for allowing UNDP [United Nations Development Program] and UNICEF officials stationed in (?jungles) to oversee the repatriation and rehabilitation of the Rohingya refugees. He said it is also expected that in the next meeting, there will be a formal response to the Bangladesh request to allow to one of Bangladesh consulate officials in Akyab, capital of Arakan, to join the bilateral talks. The spokesman described the stopping of influx of Rohingyas as a favorable development aiding the way for repatriation of the refugees. Referring to the situation in the refugee camps, the spokesman said the government is fully alert about this and taking necessary measures to maintain law and order in the camps.

Three Ershad-Appointed Envoys Recalled

BK2007094892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0926 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Dhaka, July 20 (AFP)—Bangladesh has recalled three generals appointed ambassadors by deposed president Hussain Mohammad Ershad, a foreign official said Monday.

The source told AFP they were retired major generals Muzammel Hussain, Mohammed Anwar Husaain, and Sufi Ahmed Chowdhury, respectively ambassadors in Malaysia, Germany, and Turkey.

"They have been asked to return within the next several months," the source said, adding that upon return their contracts with the foreign office would also be terminated.

The three were among the seven generals forcibly retired by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia last month, in a step described by Defence Ministry sources earlier as an effort to strengthen her hold on power and streamline the forces.

A Foreign Ministry source had indicated soon after the sackings that "one or two" envoys would be recalled before the end of their tenure.

The government announced Sunday that Mahmud Ali, currently the additional foreign secretary, would be Dhaka's new envoy to Germany. Appointments for the two other posts were yet to be announced.

President, Premier Congratulate India's Sharma

BK1807134692 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] President Abdur Rahman Biswas Saturday [18 July] hailed Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma on his election as the president of India. In his message, the president assured the Indian president-elect of his full cooperation in working together for further cementing bilateral relations.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has also expressed the hope that the existing close and friendly relations between Bangladesh and India will further strengthen in future. Begum Zia expressed this Saturday in a message of felicitation to Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma on his election as the president of India. The prime minister said Dr. Sharma's election is a well deserved recognition of his long and dedicated service to the cause of the Indian nation. Begum Zia expressed her best wishes for good health, happiness, and long life of Dr. Sharma and continued peace, progress, and prosperity of the friendly people of India.

India

Rao Remarks During No-Confidence Move Detailed

BK1707163292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] The Lok Sabha has rejected the no-confidence motion against the Narasimha Rao government by a margin of 52 votes; 267 members voted against the opposition-sponsored motion, while 215 voted for it. Ten members, including two from the Muslim League, abstained. The motion was moved by Mr. Jawsant Singh, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and was supported by most opposition parties including the National Front and Left Front.

Earlier, replying to the three-day debate, the prime minister refuted the opposition charge of inaction on Ayodhya and said the government is awaiting a further report from the Uttar Pradesh [UP] government on actual compliance with the Allahabad High Court orders. Mr. Narasimha Rao said that the state government has rushed a special messenger to Faizabad with directions to the district authorities to carry out the court orders.

Chronicling the sequence of events since the UP chief minister's assurance to the National Integration Council in November, Mr. Rao said the atmosphere of security in Ayodhya has been shaken following the developments that began in December. He said in view of the rapid developments there was no time to find an amicable solution through negotiations.

On the securities scandal, the prime minister asserted that from the very moment it came to the government's notice, steps have been taken, culminating in the joint parliamentary committee. When Mr. George Fernandes, Janata Dal, intervened to say that the special court has observed that the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] is shielding the real culprits, Mr. Narasimha Rao said he will immediately order the CBI to look into the observations of the special court.

On Bofors, the prime minister said the CBI is awaiting the Geneva cantonal court's decision which is expected next month. He said the Delhi High Court is likely to resume hearing later this month on a day-to-day basis in the case pending before it.

On the Solanki episode, Mr. Rao informed the house that the CBI had questioned the former external affairs minister, but Mr. Solanki was not in a position to identify the person who handed over the controversial note to him. The prime minister said he again asked Mr. Solanki today whether he could recollect the identity of the person, but he replied in the negative.

Turning to Punjab, Mr. Narasimha Rao said the Rajiv-Longowal Accord is the only package for the troubled state and that consultations are on to carry it out in its totality.

Denying any contradiction in the government's policies on Jammu and Kashmir, he said elections will be held in the state when the conditions are conducive. He asserted that only a democratic government can restore normalcy in the state.

On Assam, he hoped that meaningful talks will take place with the whole of ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] in the near future.

On the new economic policy, the prime minister said private participation in the infrastructural sector will enable the government to increase its investments in rural development and human resource development. He said under the eighth plan, a massive outlay of 30,000 crore rupees is envisaged for rural development which can go up to 50,000

crores. He asserted that over 80 percent of the foreign investment proposals are in high-priority industries. Mr. Rao said despite demands from the former Soviet Union states and Eastern Europe, India gas been able to attract considerable foreign investment.

On foreign relations, Mr. Narasimha Rao reaffirmed that there is no change in the country's foreign policy and the government takes its own decisions without succumbing to any external pressures. He said the Non-aligned Movement will play a new role in the changed global context. He said the dialogue with Pakistan will continue and the secretary-level talks resumed soon. He said India has to treat Pakistan with friendship, tolerance, and firmness. By establishing diplomatic relations with Israel, India will play an important role in the West Asia peace process, the prime minister added.

Further Reportage on Disputed Temple Situation

National Integration Council Meets

BK1807090292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] The prime minister has asked the National Integration Council [NIC] to suggest a line of action on the Ayodhya iussue. Addressing the third meeting of the reconstituted council in New Delhi this morning, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao expressed concern over the recent developments and said these have kept alive passions over the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid [temple-mosque] dispute. He regretted that the concensus of the National Integration Council was also diluted to some extent. Leaders of major political parties and chief ministers of various states, including Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, are attending the meeting. The prime minister called for a full and complete discussion of all aspects of the issues involved in the latest controversy to find a harmonious solution.

The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, in his address, made it clear that the center will never compromise on the fundamental values while finding a solution to the Ayodhya dispute. He said it is not merely a matter of safety of the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid structure, but of the commitment to secular values, sanctity of the judicial system, and respect for the rule of law. The home minister spoke of the solemn assurance given by the Uttar Pradesh chief minister on protecting the structure. He also informed the meeting of the state government's instruction to the Faizabad District authorities to ensure compliance with the high court stay orders. Mr. Chavan regretted that the construction work was allowed to continue even on Thursday [16 July]. It is unfortunate that various organizations are making statements reiterating that the work will be continued despite the court orders. The home minister told the NIC members that the center has repeatedly urged the state government to suspend the construction work till the matter is resolved through consultations or a court verdict.

Rao Appeals for Reduced Tensions

BK1907033292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] The National Integration Council [NIC] meeting ended in New Delhi last night without adopting any resolution on the Ayodhya issue, but the prime minister assured the meeting that the center is fully allied to its responsibilities and will discharge these as and when necessary. While several speakers were in favor of the center acquiring the disputed land, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] said the NIC should not be used as a forum to attack a political party. Summing up the deliberations, Mr. Narasimha Rao appealed on behalf of the council to all concerned not to do or say anything which will aggravate tension. The prime minister said failure of the state government to implement the high court's stay was tantamount to a breakdown of the Constitution. He hoped that the Uttar Pradesh chief minister will keep his promises and will not allow such a situation to develop. The Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mr. Kalyan Singh told the meeting that his government will hold itself fully responsible for the protection of the Ram Janambhoomi Babri Masjid [temple-mosque] structure. He said the court orders will be implemented. The prime minister offered all cooperation to the state government in this task. Briefing reporters, the official spokesman said the meeting was of the opinion that all parties concerned should respect the court orders in letter and spirit. They should not do anything which may appear to be disrespectful to the court or create a communal divide. Official sources in Lucknow said that the construction work at Shilamyar site at Ayodhya is still continuing. No report regarding the compliance of court order has been received from Faizabad District administration. Meanwhile, the situation in Ayodhya and Faizabad is reported peaceful. Security arrangement in and around the disputed structure has been further strengthened.

Government Action Urged

BK1907070692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Journalist S.C. Bhutt Commentary]

[Text] Given the serious differences over Ayodhya between the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and what may be called the non-BJP opinion in the country, the National Integration Council could have hardly been expected to bridge the gap. It was not surprising that its meeting yesterday ended without a resolution being adopted, but the BJP leaders, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mr. Kalyan Singh in particular, must have noted the strong feelings in the council over the issue. The prime minister left them in no doubt that failure to implement the high court stay order will be tantamount to a breakdown of the constitutional machinery. In other words, the BJP cannot hope to remain in power in Lucknow if the construction is not stopped.

For three days now, the Faizabad District authorities have been looking for alibis rather than putting their foot down and asking the kar seva volunteers [building temple at disputed site] to pack up. For too long, the BJP, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council] and the numerous other bodies created by the Parishad have been acting in concert. Now, it would be too much for the BJP leaders to expect the people to swallow the theory that the Parishad is outside its control. In fact, the crux of the issue is the willingness of the Kalyan Singh government to respect the court orders or the judicial process. Some of the BJP leaders have been voicing their dissatisfaction over the legal delays. They also speak of what they call their mandate in the election to build a temple of Shri Ram. Simply because the party won in Uttar Pradesh, do we have to believe there was such a mandate? But the BJP failed to wrest power in Delhi which was its declared aim. Does that mean there is no mandate? Mr. Kalyan Singh must stand by his assurance that the disputed structure—the Babri Mosque—will not be demolished or damaged. The construction now going on despite the Allahabad High Court order may lead to the structure being endangered. It is there that the center has been accused of dilly-dallying. If not publicly, privately at least, the Kalyan Singh government must be told of the options before it. Stop the construction and stay in power or go out and let the center handle the situation. It is time Delhi took a firm stand in evolving a solution to the problem.

Construction Work Continues

BK1707155992 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Reports from Ayodhya say that construction activity at the shilanyas [foundation stone laying] site is continuing despite the Uttar Pradesh government's order to stop it. Hearing of the writ petition challenging the acquisition of land around the disputed shrine resumed today before the special full bench in Lucknow of the Allahabad High Court. The petition was filed by Mr. Mohammad Hashim and the hearing is expected to continue till Monday [20 July].

BJP Reaffirms Pledge To Build

BK1707131692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has reaffirmed its commitment to the building of the Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir [temple] at Ayodhya and congratulated the UP [Uttar Pradesh] government on what it calls removing the obstacles on the way. The national executive of the party which met in New Delhi today hailed the decision of the Sant Sammelan [conference of saints] and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council] to start the construction of the temple's main gate on land which it said was declared undisputed in 1989. The party president, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, briefing newsmen denied reports of demonstrations by the BJP against some courts and disapproved of any such action.

U.S Pressure Behind French Technology Decision

BK1707125292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] France has said that it cannot provide the Indian Space Research Organization any rocket technology unless New Delhi becomes a party to the Missile Technology Control Regime. Reports say that France, which has been cooperating with India in space since the late 1960's, appears to have taken this decision under pressure from the United States.

Adherence to Regime Urged

BK1807040492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Commentary: "India and the Missile Technology Control Regime" by Jeet Barnachendren, defense analyst]

[Text] It was expected that France would follow in the footsteps of the United States in denying missile technology to India after the U.S. sanctions against Israel. However, the statement, attributed to Mr. (Genera Belandeau), the head of the International Affairs in the French Department of Space, is both intriguing and interesting.

According to reports, Mr. (Belandeau) had said that signing of Missile Technology Control Regime, MTCR, is a condition if India wants cooperation from France relating to cryogenic engines. It is intriguing because the MTCR is not a formal international agreement with provisions for signatures for membership. It is, rather, an informal grouping of like-minded countries with membership procedures which are also informal. Membership is by invitation from the group to join it. Currently, membership of MTCR numbers 21 countries. Since all decisions of the MTCR group are only made by concensus and with the U.S. being the leading member of the group, it is very unlikely that an invitation to India to join the group will be forthcoming in the near future.

It is also to be remembered that a membership of MTCR like that of other similar technology control regimes is currently limited to only the Western capitalist countries, including Japan. None of them has any representation from the Third World. With the increased preoccupation of these countries the current chances of an invitation to India are almost non-existent. Thus, the offer of France to supply cryogenic engines to India, if India were to join MTCR, is devoid of any substance. Nevertheless, the statement is interesting and may possibly be of some significance which needs further exploration.

While the MTCR discourages exports of Category 1 items, such as cryogenic engines, it nevertheless allows such transfers if the seller assumes responsibility for only permitted end uses. Therefore, if it is the suggestion of the French authorities that India adhere to MTCR rather than become a member in order to be eligible to receive cryogenic engine technology, then the matter ought to be

pursued seriously by the Indian authorities. Adherence to MTCR does not pose any threat to either Indian sovereignty or security. Moreover, the steps to be taken to become an adherent are all entirely within the control of the Indian Government. That's why the French statement leaves a number of pertinent and important questions unanswered.

The Indian Government must pursue the matter seriously since it may afford an opportunity to India to break out of the current and forthcoming technology denial regimes.

Surface-to-Air Missile Development Breakthrough

BK1907072792 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0630 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] Indian defense scientists have made a major breakthrough in developing high technology sub-systems for the medium range surface-to-air missile Akash. The missile is capable of hitting multiple targets in one fire. Scientists say they have carried out successfully three flight tests of the missile which proved its ability of hitting five to six targets simultaneously within the range of 25 km. With the successful induction of the missile by 1995, India will be the sixth country in the world after the United states, Russia, France, England, and Sweden to develop such a state-of-art technology.

Defense Minister on Induction of Missile, Tanks

BK2007091492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] The defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, has said that the Indian Army is making preparations for induction of [surface-to-surface] Prithvi missile. He informed the Rajya Sabha during question hour today that 12 prototypes, including two fully integrated prototypes, of the main battle tank Arjun have been fabricated. The tanks have undergone trials. Describing the results as encouraging, Mr. Pawar said four more preproduction series tanks are likely to be ready by December this year.

'Grave Concern' Over Burma Border Intrusion

BK1807031492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] India has conveyed its grave concern to Myanmar [Burma] at the recent intrusions of its Army into Mizoram and harrassment of people in the border villages. The minister of state for home, Mr. M.M. Jacob, told the Lok Sabha yesterday that the matter has been taken up with Myanmar at diplomatic level with a request to take immediate steps to prevent any recurrence of such incidents. Making the statement, Mr. Jacob said the security forces along the border have intensified patroling and surveillance. He although said it is not easy to seal the border as it passes through difficult terrain.

Wanted Ranking Punjab 'Militant' Arrested

BK1807055192 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] The Bombay police has arrested a top-ranking Punjab militant Manjit Singh at Dadar railway station. The police commissioner told newsmen that the 33-year-old militant was involved in the bombing of Air India Boeing Kanishka in 1985. He is wanted by the American, British, Canadian, and Indian intelligence agencies.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Delivers Friday Prayer Sermons

Radio Summarizes Content

LD1707113692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Friday prayer meeting places all over the country today witnessed the congregation of millions of Hezbollahi men and women who, in their slogans, stressed their preparedness to implement the recent gudielines of the leader.

Delivering the Tehran Friday prayer sermons, Hojjat ol-Eslam val- Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani said:

[Begin recording] The main topic of this sermon of mine is a follow-up to the very important statements of the esteemed Leader on enjoining good and forbidding evil as well as overall supervision and the need for the Hezbollahi and Basiji forces to be active. This is one of the fundamental issues of our country.

The essence of the point is that we began our revolution on the basis of Islam. And nothing can satisfy our people but Islam; and nothing but Islam could have united our people bringing them to the arena in such solid ranks. And, during the period of revolution following its victory, there was no other instrumnent but Islam which could keep the people on the scene despite so much pressure, so many troubles, invasion, war, and meddling mischief which we encountered both inside and outside the country.

These people would have followed only Islam the way they did. And had there been no people, no system with any other instrument could have been able to neutralize so much meddling against itself and to provide so many services in such a short period and in such an alien world.

So the principal asset is made up of Islam and the aspirations of the revolution. And the instruments and the main point of reliance for the movement are the people and the sincere forces. And the sharp point of their arrow is made up of the Basiji and Hezbollahi forces who have been the pioneers on all scenes from the beginning until today.

And we will solve the problems through all-round supervision which is the same as enjoining good and forbidding evil. That way everybody anywhere, in proportion to issues encountered, may shake off indifference and set out to forbid evil and to demand continuation along the prescribed and good path. [end recording]

In his first sermon, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi- Rafsanjani, the president, referring to the great uprising and self- sacrifice of Imam Husayn, peace be upon him, and his friends in the desert of Karbala, described the vital role of Her Holiness Zeynab in conveying the message of Ashura and in organizing an uprising against the government of Yazid.

The president described the path and goals of Imam Husayn as the path of salvation and victory and said:

As the friends of Imam Husayn and as the lovers of the Prophet's Family we will be successful only if we do not forget the goals of Karbala and if we continue the path of Imam Husayn, peace be upon him, which is the path of martyrdom, truth, justice, religion and piety.

In his second sermon, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi- Rafsanjani referred to the important features of the Social Security Day and Security Forces Day and expressed his hope for the expansion of the activities of Social Security Organization in order to take care of the vulnerable and deprived people. He also described the security forces of the country as the guarantors of peace and security of the society and the stability of the country.

Referring to the resignation of the Minister of Islamic Culture and Guidance, the president denied the rumors about the resignation of other ministers and executive officials and described them as false.

Referring to the programs of the government of the Islamic Republic for the economic reconstruction of the country in the period after the eight-year-long war and increasing the activities for the construction of the infrastructure of the country in order to enhance the economic, social, and cultural growth of the Islamic Iran, the president described the policies which are being implemented in order to create economic equilibrium in the country and to prevent the illegal export of basic and essential commodities such as medicine and fuel.

At the end of his prayers sermons, in his Arabic sermon Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, condemning the massacre of the defenseless Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina by the Serbian forces, strongly criticized the silence of the big powers and those who claim to maintain international security in the face of the crimes which are being carried out in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Second Friday Prayer Sermon

LD1807211892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1100 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Second Friday prayer sermon by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani at Tehran University in Tehran—recorded]

[Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. God willing our nation, our ummah, will maintain the valuable nature of piety in themselves and continue to tread the path of God in order to achieve success.

The occasions of the week comprise of the Social Security Week, which is one of the important and basic foundations of the country, and we expect a great deal from that foundation in the future. We hope that with the implementation of the envisaged programs, social security will be able to provide social insurance to all deprived strata of society so that we no longer worry about the underdeveloped and deprived strata of our oppressed people. That organization is currently working on that, and that is on top of a great deal of development and relief work which it presently deals with. You listened to a report about it which was given by the esteemed head of that organization.

We also have Law Enforcement Day. Those forces are the support and the security of the country and they should have a social status so that any time and anywhere the people see them they feel confident and secure. The people should have security in their homes, in streets, in deserts and at our borders. With the merger of the three forces appropriate grounds have been prepared for that force to solidly perform its very grave duties which have to do with society's security and health. Much effort has been made up to now in their campaign against insurgents, drug smugglers, thieves and parasite persons. God willing, in the future we hope to be able to witness further success for those dear children of Islam so that our nation, thanks to their vigilance, can continue the path of its revolution confidently and peacefully. [participants chant slogans]

There is a small point that I would like to mention about members of the cabinet and the government ministers that I am telling you on the occasion of the resignation of the esteemed Islamic guidance minister.

Some rumors have been spread in the press and throughout society that some of the ministers have to be transferred or changed and so on. So far we could not deny these rumors because there was one case, and if we had completely denied them we would have been wrong. That is why we waited and did not pay any attention to those rumors. The esteemed guidance minister wished to leave even before the elections for personal reasons that are known to himself. We asked him to wait for an

appropriate time. Now the appropriate time has come, and we acted according to what his excellency has wished himself for a long time.

We have no plans at all to change or transfer any other ministers. The reasons that I chose the ministers for my cabinet, and I have worked with them for many years, is that I am confident about their sincerity, their efforts, their endeavors, their sympathy, and their management, and for those reasons they will remain and work at the posts they presently occupy, God willing. I have to mention that those rumors, which may create weakness and doubts in the relevant ministries, institutions, and companies, are totally baseless. This cabinet will perform its work until the end of its legal life with the support of the people and the Majles and under the command of the honorable leader [Ayatollah 'Ali Hoseyni Khamene'i], God willing. [crowd chants: "God is greatest," "Khamene'i is the leader," "Death to America," "Death to Israel"]

Meanwhile, we would like to raise a point regarding Bosnia- Hercegovina and other places in the world of Islam that are currently suffering from a lack of security. Here we have a serious complaint about the inaction of the international organizations that pay no attention to those areas. Those who so rapidly came to Kuwait to put down the turmoil are now silent about so much slaughter and aggression—or else they utter weak remarks. Since I have written this point into my Arabic sermon for all the world of Islam, I will refer to it in that sermon.

The main topic of my sermon is a follow-up to the very important statements of the esteemed leader [Khamene'i] on enjoining good and forbidding evil, as well as overall supervision and the need for the Hezbollahi and Basiji forces to be active. This is one of our country's fundamental issues. I intend to elaborate on that topic; thus, the views of our great leader will be expanded, and I can take advantage of the occasion to explain why the esteemed leader, on the occasion of 'Ashura, raised that important point—some may ask why it was not raised earlier, or why not later.

That was the style of His Holiness [Ayatollah Khomeyni]. Whenever he felt that a point had to be made and steps had to be taken to prevent possible complacency, he would launch a campaign. We have always benefited from that style to raise such points.

Well, there were many points in his statements of which two or three are worthy of attention. I like to concentrate my debate on them. He [Khamene'i] drew attention to the fact that now we are going through an era of reconstruction. In this era we have greater expectations of the Hezbollahi and Basiji forces to be present on the scene. And he said that the objective was to realize the aspirations of Islam and the revolution; the two are the same. And the instrument to achieve that target was overall supervision and presence of the faithful and sincere forces of the society, who guard their aspirations and values, on the scene.

The was the essence of the point that he raised, and now I intend to speak on the ways and means of doing so. To some extent I will refer to the implementation side of the issue; my purpose is that the implementation side is looked at from other angles.

The essence of the whole thing is that we began our revolution on the basis of Islam. Nothing can satisfy our people but Islam, and nothing but Islam could have united our people, bringing them to the arena in such solid ranks. And, during the period of revolution following its victory, there was no other instrumnent but Islam that could keep the people on the scene despite so much pressure, so many troubles, invasion, war, and mischief that we encountered from within and without.

Except for Islam there was nothing else that these people would have followed the way they did. And had there been no people, no system with no other instrument could have been able to neutralize so much mischief against itself and to provide so many services in such a short period and in such a strange world.

So the principal asset is made up of Islam and the aspirations of the revolution. And the instruments and the main point of reliance for the movement are the people and the sincere forces. And the tip of their arrow is the Basiji and Hezbollahi forces who have been the pioneers on all scenes from the beginning.

We will solve problems through all-round supervision, which is the same as enjoining good and forbidding evil. That way everybody anywhere, in proportion to issues encountered, may shake off indifference and set out to forbid evil and to demand continuation along the prescribed and good path.

It would be beneficial for me to clarify our own situation a little, so that, afterwards, you could decide what important responsibility our people, Basiji and Hezbollahi forces, have today.

We have made plans and decided to implement our programs in two five-year stages. The aim is to make our country independent and put an end to, or minimize, our dependence on the outside world, so we can accomplish one of the revolution's slogans, which was independence, after the war and at this opportunity.

There are three major aspects in our program, each of which would require a separate program if we had the opportunity. But as time is short, and there is no opportunity, we have placed three very important aspects in one program. Therefore, our progress would be slower. One is rebuilding the war damage; another is the country's economic, cultural, and social development; and the other is reform.

Those who are knowledgeable about these subjects are aware that each of them requires a program and a rapid and all-encompassing movement. Your revolution is currently pursuing these three important tasks. If the

presence of sincere forces is weak, and if public supervision is inadequate, it may lead to, at the least, a slowing down of our movement and, at the most, we may not be successful.

Reconstruction is an extremely important and difficult task. While you are sitting here—I mean, in this year's budget—the government directly spends 35 billion tomans [one toman equals 10 rials] and 150 million dollars on reconstruction, which add up to about 60 billion tomans. Add to that what the other departments spend in their own reconstruction program, such as oil, energy, roads, and other industries, where they are repairing war damage. Plus what the people spend to rebuild their houses and work places. We are perhaps spending more than 100 billion tomans directly on reconstruction. How much material, facilities, and manpower it requires is obvious. That is not what a war-stricken country, which is practically under embargo, could easily accomplish.

Our other task is development. That is more difficult. In my previous sermons I have referred to it, I will summarize today. Development and growth is an extremely difficult and lengthy task. Unfortunately, both during the Satanic [Pahlavi] period and the revolution era our country has been extremely backward in terms of infrastructure. It requires extensive development in all sectors of the infrastructure.

Our country needs extensive development with regard to manpower, energy, communications and telecommunications, roads and railroads, transportation, the ports, agriculture, the control of water resources, the extraction of mines, the utilization of energy and energy resources in the country; and even education and training, basic education, technical and vocational training—these are all infrastructural tasks, with regard to primary and independent industries.

We were dependent in the Satanic era and after the revolution, because of the conditions well-known to you, we were unable to reduce dependence, and in some areas it has increased. Hence we have had these problems. That also applies to defensive capabilities, arms, and other equipment.

We must carry out all the tasks in the two five-year plans and bring all of them to the point where the country is self-reliant. Manpower must be trained in these universities. The number that we achieved a few years ago was not sufficient at all. We are rapidly expanding qualitatively and quantitatively, particularly in specialized subjects, doctorates and others so that we train our own manpower. Thank God, we have been very successful.

Regarding the control of water resources: I have said on many occasions that the vast majority of the nation's water is going to waste. We have a very high flying [as heard] program, we are studying proposals for the construction of over 100 dams. We are currently implementing 20 proposals. Henceforth, you will be hearing more about the inauguration of dams.

Regarding energy: You know that we had power cuts from before the revolution until today, while our industry is not functioning. If it was to function, we would need much more energy. We have a very extensive program which will soon, God willing, reduce forced power cuts so that we will have enough electrical energy which is needed for today's life.

With regard to the raw materials of the nation, nearly everything was imported: your steel, your aluminum, your copper. Even if we have copper, copper strips, everything was imported. Lead and zinc were imported. Petrochemical raw materials were imported. Even these sheets that are used in buildings and household goods were imported. Unfortunately, our oil, I mean petroleum products which we need, most of them were imported both before and after the revolution. Concerning your wheat, when I started my executive task 5 million tonnes of wheat were purchased from abroad. We have reduced this figure to 2.5 million tonnes. Still, 2.5 million tonnes is a lot. Our rice and tea were imported. Building material, steel, and everything else was imported.

Before the revolution, manpower came from abroad. After the revolution, however, following the arrival of Hezbollahi forces on the scene, the situation has improved to a great extent. Fabrics came from abroad, household goods were imported, rice was imported, chicken and meat were imported. You know what the situation is like: There are thousands of small items; if one of them is not available a whole factory can come to a standstill; spare parts, etc. The same applies to machinery. Trucks and cars were imported. What we had was completely assembled. This was our situation prior to the five-year program. Our program intends to change this situation. We have to perform all the infrastructural tasks of the nation ourselves.

Fortunately, the development plan is responding. For instance, in the case of wheat, to which I referred earlier, when we first started we imported 5 million tonnes. But this year, as we said, it was 2 million tonnes, although the population has increased by more than 3 to 4 million over the past three years.

That is an indication of the success of our work. When we first began our work, we were told that our industrial plants were useless and worn out. They were depreciated after 10 to 15 years and could not be revived. Yet you see the same plants are more or less providing most of the domestic needs using a great deal of home- based material. You saw in the Central Bank report published the day before yesterday that the gross domestic product in your countr had a growth of 10 percent in the year 1370 [year ending 20 March, 1992]. No other country, as we know, has had such growth.

Maybe in one or two other countries such a growth can be found, but as far as we know that growth rate has not yet been seen in any other country. The advanced countries achieve growth rates of one or two percent because their economies are large and their level is also

very high; so even one percent growth is too much. Medium- ranged countries are far below that level.

Meanwhile, investment is very high. But, unfortunately, some individuals, who are always negative and who always want to demoralize the people, are constantly saying there has been no new investments and that only existing capacity has been utilized.

But we know what is [as heard]. To them, investment is what they read in the government budget which, of course, that figure too is very high. Our development budget has considerably increased compared with previous budgets. However, the state-owned and the private sector are now the ones with the development budgets. [as heard] The Ministry of Oil alone today has an investment of 150 billion tumans. The Ministry of Energy alone has more than 150 billion tumans investment while the Ministry of Mines and Metals, the Ministry of Telecommunications, the Ministry of Industries, they all have vast investments. These are what the state-owned companies do.

The investment growth is moving precisely along the path that we desire. There are huge infrastructural projects currently at hand. When you pass by the countryside you can see from afar that some machinery is at work with cement and steel. These are for gas projects. There is fast development in railroads, roads, fisheries, in all sectors of the agriculture such as irrigation and farm machinery.

As for industries, you can see growth by yourselves at trade exhibitions which are being set up. God willing, this year we have progressed in steel self-sufficiency. Next year we hope to attain export capability in our petrochemicals. We are self-sufficient in aluminum and also in copper. We have shortages in cement, but we have numerous cement mills at hand to be set up. These are four- to five-year projects which will be implemented later. These tasks must be performed. Our country's villages all must benefit from telephone because of the distances involved. Telecommunications, radio and televisions must expand. In many places there were no schools; in some places there is still no school. Development of schools is important; so is cultural work—cinema and theater halls, sports halls and many other things which our towns lack. Running water and sewage are things which have not been taken care of which must be.

That is what we call development. To that must be added the development of human resources and infrastructure. All that is incorporated into the planning. And they all need investment—the kind of investment that does not have a quick yield.

Another problem that we encounter is that of adjustment [ta'dil]. That is more important. That is the main problem of our economic system, which we must solve. Some problems that we encounter stem from that.

For example, the distribution system in our country was not suitable. A very wrong policy was in place before the revolution in some sectors that was compounded after the revolution because of the war. As a result, our nation sustains a high degree of loss, and yet they believe they are the beneficiaries. Somebody must have courage to solve that problem. Of course, he must explain to the people.

The previous policy was this: we used to sell oil and buy low- price goods from abroad at the foreign exchange rate of 70 rials [to the dollar] and give them to consumers. That will have adverse results.

These adverse effects are not just a handful. For one thing, how can industry achieve growth in the country? If you buy the best car at 10,000 dollars and bring it to the country to sell it on the basis of foreign exchange rate of 7 tumans per dollar, then it will be worth 70,000 tumans. If you add a little profit to it then the price would be 100,000 tumans. Then can anybody in this country produce cars? Can anybody even think of it? You can import wheat and give it to people at the price based on the foreign exchange rate of 7 tumans, which amounts to one or two tumans. Then who can produce wheat in this country?

If you can produce wheat freely in this country, then it will have a cost price of 20 to 30 tumans per kilo. Give them rice; then nobody can produce rice. Each item of foreign goods will be the same. If any kind of imported goods—television sets, radio sets, carpets, agricultural and industrial products—is sold to people at a price based on foreign exchange rate of 7 tumans, then nobody can produce anything at home. This is not competitive; textiles or others. Its consequences will not be confined to that. If these goods are expensive in our neighboring countries while we sell them cheaply here, then we cannot keep them here.

Today we have a problem with medical goods because they are smuggled. We supply them at low prices but in Turkey and Iraq in the north, Afghanistan and Pakistan in the south, and all other places, these are expensive. Anybody can take a little medical goods abroad and earn enough to pay for his travel expenses. Because we sell the fuel cheaply you can see what happens on the Turkish border. These trucks simply come to Iran because they want to load up 400 liters of gas, which means 400 times 80 tumans profit when they go back to their side of the border.

Is it possible to allow such a thing to happen in a world in which everything is related? Today, close to our borders, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan want to sell electricity to us but we cannot buy it, because they offer it at, say, five cents. That means 7.5 tumans while we now sell electricity to the people at a price lower than one tuman. How can we buy electricity at 7.5 tumans and sell it to the people at less than one tuman? If goods are cheap because of our work it is good, but if they are cheap

because we do it by oil, then it is sad. They must arrive at a suitable economic level.

For example, manufactured cars at the foreign exchange rate of 7 tumans. Then they would say a Peykan [locally produced car] must be priced at 150,000 tumans. As a result, we used to have a long line of several thousand applicants. Then more than 50,000 applicants were waiting to take delivery of Peykans at 7 tumans. Of course, we gradually delivered them. We even gave them some more. We installed Peugeot engines and raised the prices a little so we did not sustain too much loss. We manufactured trucks priced at 7 tumans and as a result we had several thousand applicants. They used to buy trucks at 500,000 tumans, 700,000 tumans or 800,000 tumans while they could sell at 5 or 6 million tumans. Anybody who could apply sooner could then lay his hands on one of these trucks.

There is neither justice in it nor is it a correct policy. There was always a line. Any time we set quotas for anything then, there was a line. In fact, we cannot have quotas without a waiting line. The same is true of rationing. We are forced to give goods by ration; we must do so for years. But that system is a calamity. According to our figures our population is 56 million, but we distribute 60 million coupons. That means 4 million lie; through lies and identity cards of the dead and other forgeries they get coupons. This is a lie; it is a sin. The government as well as others commit sins.

Life based on rationing originally started with the communists, who were so badly defeated. And in our society it stemmed from war-time conditions. That system was used during war because then a minimum must be made available to the people. But that system would not allow anything to be reformed. Now adjustment is this: not to allow your main wealth to be wasted—your main asset being oil because other than oil we do not earn foreign exchange from anything.

The foreign exchange belongs to you. We divide it, and if the Tehrani gets one dollar, the villager and the tribal person in Khash and Sistan va Baluchestan gets the same one dollar. But he does not spend his one dollar, but the one in Tehran or Esfahan spends several dollars. How? Because he uses cheap oil and gas while the rural person does not consume such things. He uses gas while the other one does not. We build streets for him at low-rate foreign exchange while he does not want a street. They do not consume meat and wheat and such things that you urban people consume. Is that justice? Is this a revolutionary and Islamic government? That is how the assets of the people are being squandered. That is not only what I say—that is what the Majles says, the leader says, the government says. It is what you all say.

Adjustment is a world necessity today. That is, every commodity should have its own price. But if we want to implement that, using a crash program, then there will be chaos, and that is not possible. We have to deal with it step by step. We have to accept and endure those discriminations and badly managed distributions for some more years. But each year we are working on some of those issues.

You could see a problem with the distribution of milk some days ago. You could hear from shops who used to say that in the mornings there was not enough milk. Do you know how that is? In 1968 when we began distributing milk, we used to give, for example, 350 tonnes of milk to Tehran. That is milk and yogurt together. Today we are giving 670 tonnes to Tehran and they still say that there is not enough milk in shops. Why is there a shortage? Because yogurt is somewhat more expensive and that is due to the fact that we do not subsidize yogurt. Profiteers come and buy more milk and turn it to yogurt in order to make a profit of one tuman, five rials, 10 tumans.

That causes shortage of milk and cynicism in people, and also some people are left without milk just because someone wants to get five tumans more. The shopkeeper commits a dirty action giving milk to his friends, the distributor commits a dirty action giving his friends more milk. When they all come together then there is nothing else to add. At the moment we have no problem about the distribution of trucks. Seven years ago, three years ago that we started there were many thousands of trucks in the queue. Now the Heavy Industries Ministry asks people to come and take trucks; there are a lot of them here. No one comes to take them away. We also provide loans. That is, we give loans for the total price of the truck. The truck owner has no need for it. He would work for one hour and manage to pay for it. Why to work at all? That is the way people used to live.

In Tehran cars had reached a price of 20 and 30 million tumans. We still were giving foreign currency at a rate of seven tumans. Now we give no foreign currency for cars. Nothing at all. Not even one cent. They themselves produce cars; car prices have come down and they should come down further. Now spare parts are being produced. No one used to produce spare parts when we used to provide spare parts at a reduced rate of seven tumans. Now every person with a cutting machine goes and produces spare parts.

We used to sell tractors to farmers, then we realized that the same tractor ended up in Afghanistan. We saw that in many cases. Or it ended up in Pakistan. They used to get the tractor at a reduced price from us, with foreign currency calculated at seven tomans. Then the farmer could take it to any other place and sell it for ten times the price. They are still doing the same thing. Even now we are still gradually adjusting tractor prices. That is one of the problems we are facing now. Therefore, another one of our tasks is the adjustment policy.

The role played by the Hezbollahi forces and trustworthy people during the construction, reconstruction, development, adjustment periods can be very significant.

I would like to elaborate on the instructions of the honorable leader about the presence of the forces on the

scene and tell them that you should also enter financial and economic scenes. You should take out of your heads wrong impressions that have been forced into our heads that a Hezbollahi should be empty-handed and his house should be empty and he should be miserable and hungry. Who says we should hand over our wealth to incompetent persons and then supervise them to see that they use it properly?

This country has its own economy, industry, agriculture, roads, distribution, foreign trade, domestic trade, tourism, hotels. It has all of those, and some people should perform those tasks. If appropriate forces do not take up those tasks, then inappropriate forces will. They will do the work in a corrupt way, but you could do them in a competent way.

We said people can set up schools. We gave priority to the Hezbollahi teachers. We improved conditions for the selfless [those who participated in the Iran-Iraq war] so that more teachers who have been to the fronts come and set up non- governmental schools and bring rich peoples' children and educate them. What is wrong with leaving work to others? We want to expand tourism. You come along. We provide loans on all of those development programs. You come and set up small cooperation companies for the selfless. Do you think big contractors use their own money? Most of them work with bank loans. But they know the job. They know the technique. They get the loan, get the benefits and pay back their loans.

You also come and bring Hezbollahi persons to the scenes and set up companies, involve yourselves in contracts to set up hotels, buildings, roads, and so on. During my visit to Khorasan I saw a number of units which were set up by the selfless who had taken a number of platinized asbestos [ma'dan-haye nasuz] and in a short period of time were already making profits. All come and get involved.

For example, sometime ago the Revolutionary Guard Corps, Jehad Ministry personnel, and Kish [personnel] and so on cooperated and established a company called the Pioneers of Construction, in which those who went to the the front participated. It is now some five or six months since they have been preparing the groundwork.

They are active throughout the country, in all fields: in cinema, in theater, in sports grounds, in contract work, in distribution. You should set up distribution companies, distribution outlets; set up chain stores throughout the country, from villages and districts to cities. The government will support you. Take the goods to the people and sell them at low prices, at reasonable prices.

The Hezbollahi forces should take that kind of thinking out of their minds; that is one of those grave mistakes that has left our society empty of competent forces. They think we should hand over the world to those who think of material issues and then we should only supervise them to see if they work properly. That is a strategic mistake that they have committed. We have prepared the groundwork for your presence in the heart of society. The universities are now duty bound to allocate 40 percent of their places to those who participated on the front. That was approved when I was in the Majles, and when I came to the government we approved its rules and regulations.

You look and see what it means to have 40 percent of the universities taking those who have participated in the fronts. In five years time how many of yesterday's struggling forces will become tomorrow's managers? Very well, the roads are open. In the budget articles priority has always been given to the self- sacrificing, Hezbollahi, and Basiji forces. But they do not come after the work.

They do not know what to do. They are village youngsters who are just grateful to dig the ground with their shovels. Or here in the city they are shop assistants and are happy enough with their work. But we do not think that is enough. Organizations, commanders, everyone must give the necessary guidance. They must pave the way, open the field. If that does take place, if 10 years from now much of our basic reconstruction work is undertaken by our former battle- front combatants, then we can be certain that they will find their own way from that time on. Of course, now, the jehad, the [Islamic Revolution Guards] Corps, the Basij, and law-enforcement forces are on the stage; their youngsters are active. They always have been and they carry on doing their work.

Economic fields have not been occupied sufficiently yet. You should come and arrive on the scene. All cultural, economic, media, all of those fields are now ready to be occupied. [passage omitted]

Khatami Quit Because of 'Stagnant' Climate

NC1807154392 Paris AFP in English 1447 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 18 (AFP)—Iran's former Islamic guidance minister, whose resignation was accepted two days ago, on Saturday said he quit the job because of what he called a "retrogade and stagnant" climate in the country.

Mohammad Khatami, in a letter published Saturday by Iranian newspapers, warned that this situation threatened to condemn "intellectuals, artists and even faithful friends of the Islamic Revolution" to "indifference."

His resignation, he said, was the result of the "the rising retrograde and stagnant influence and the climate of insecurity that increasingly bedevils cultural activities" in Iran.

Khatami resigned his job as Islamic guidance and culture minister in May following stepped up criticism by clerics and conservative groups who accused him of negligence and liberal policies.

But his request to step down was only accepted on Thursday by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who appointed 'Ali Larijani, a former deputy minister of the Revolutionary Guards militia, as his successor.

Larijani also serves as an adviser to the armed forces chief of staff and is known to have close links with spiritual guide 'Ali Khamene'i. His appointment is expected to be confirmed by parliament in August after its summer recess.

Khatami encouraged the activities of the film industry and promoted music which had been frowned upon by the founder of the Islamic Revolution, the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni.

His departure underscores the growing influence of religious conservatives on decision making following the defeat of radicals in April's parliamentary elections.

The new Majles, the parliament, is dominated by supporters of Rafsanjani's West-leaning policies.

Committee To Study Khamene'i Virtue, Vice Edicts

LD1907223892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] A committee made up of officials from the judicial branch, Interior Ministry, and the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps [IRGC] will examine the recent commands of the eminent leader on the need for the propagation of virtue and the prohibition of vice, confronting the West's cultural onslaught, and compiling directives in this regard.

Major General Commander [pasdar] Reza'i, commander of the IRGC, announced this at a news conference today, adding: Basij [Mobilization of the Oppressed] and IRGC forces will continue, as before, to play an active role in all arenas of the revolution. They are fully prepared to carry out the commands of the eminent leader [Khamene'i] on the need to propagate virtue and prohibit vice. He added: The IRGC has begun taking steps toward training specialist forces for the propagation of virtue and the prohibition of vice.

The IRGC commander also acknowledged that there is a possibility of abuses in this regard, stressing: Any action which contravenes the law and the Shari'ah will be seriously confronted.

Major General Reza'i concluded by referring to the need for the participation of the people who are devoted to the revolution in the country's economic areas, saying: An organization named the Pioneers of Construction has been established with the involvement of several ministries and under the supervision of the vice president for executive affairs. It will act to recruit and encourage the participation of Basiji forces in the country's economic arenas.

Ahmad Khomeyni on Islamic Influence Abroad

NC2007035092 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 8 Jul 92 p 2

[Excerpts] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Ahmad Khomeyni met personnel of the Defense Ministry industries organization as well as personnel of the Armed Forces support organization. [passage omitted]

He termed the proliferation of the Islamist movements in Algeria, Egypt, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Palestine, and the newly liberated Central Asian Republics the blessings of the 'Ashura' uprising of Husayn [Prophet Muhammad's grandson]. Ahmad Khomeyni said: The spiritual influence of the Islamic revolution of Iran among Muslims all over the world originates from the 'Ashura' uprising of Husayn and this influence will remain constant, as it calls Muslims to their true Islamic nature.

He stressed: The Islamic revolution is not confined to Iran alone, and contrary to the views of the nationalists and the liberals, his eminence the imam firmly believed in the principle of Islamic internationalism. If we state that we should only have relations with Western countries on the basis of the principles of Islam and the revolution, it means that we will not implement the views they dictate. We are blessed with our own independent opinions. In all our foreign relations we focus on the fact that the beliefs and thinking of the imam and of the leadership of the Islamic revolution should be transferred to the outside world as well. Of course it is possible that not all relations are harmless. The advantages of some outweigh their disadvantages.

In conclusion, he emphasized the active participation of the specialized indigenous forces for the purpose of reconstruction and economic, social, and cultural development of the country, adding: We should strive for the progress of Islamic Iran and should strengthen its economic and social bases. Backwardness and lack of economic growth and expansion are tantamount to utter poverty that will threaten the very gains of the Islamic revolution.

In this postwar period and in this decade of reconstruction we should endeavor to enrich ourselves economically and follow a correct economic policy. Officials should also explain the reasons for the economic shortcomings and problems in a precise manner. They should explain the causes of inflation and spiraling prices, regardless of whether they are due to internal or external factors. They should also elaborate on the stages of economic progress and development along with the problems. There is no other recourse but to endure hardships in this era of reconstruction. If there is a hiatus in implementing our economic policies, all the gains of the Islamic revolution will be threatened.

Editorial Views 'Weakness' in Industrial Sector

NC1707191192 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 8 Jul 92 p 2

[Editorial: "Single Currency Rate Not the Sole Solution"]

[Text] Unless a single-rate foreign currency policy on exports is not adopted, the Islamic Republic of Iran will not be able to compete in the international markets, Minister of Commerce 'Abdolhoseyn Vahhaji remarked in a nationwide gathering of commerce and industries managers held at the permanent site of the Tehran International Trade Fair.

Actually, in terms of non-oil exports, the country has a very slight capacity. A cursory glance at the exports of the small Third World countries and Iran and a comparison of it elucidates how low the country's capacity is.

This weakness is especially visible in the industrial sector. The country's export goods have fulfilled only 26 percent of the anticipated items specified in the First Five-Year Plan. This cannot be solely justified by saying that events turned out in this way as there was more than one foreign currency rate in the country.

In return, we notice that, over the past year, exports of agricultural goods have forged ahead of the plan by 115 percent and traditional commodities by 139 percent. If multi-tiered foreign currency rate was solely responsible for sluggishness in export ventures, then it should have affected these goods as well.

Unfortunately, due to the 8 year-long war, Iran's industry has not as yet been reconstructed. As the major part of the country's important industries is run by the government or by the government affiliated institutions and firms, even if there has been reconstruction in some sectors of industry, as we have witnessed developments in this field over the past three years, it has faced two problems to which not much attention has been paid.

These problems include: 1) Weakness in management, as the managers mainly rely on experience rather than know-how and as constant changes have robbed the managers of the power to make long- term plannings. 2) Pitifully, enhanced financial corruption among some managers or among their subordinates, especially those engaged in foreign purchases, has become alarming in recent years.

This latter brings about two unpleasant consequences: First, it gives rise to rampant corruption in a revolutionary community and so strict measures should be taken to counter this state of affairs because it clashes directly with all the ideas of the Islamic Revolution. Second, it results in the purchase of inferior products, machinery, and raw material in return for bribes and other inducements such as commissions paid to officials.

If a revolutionary approach is not adopted vis-a-vis such malpractices, it will undoubtedly be catastrophic for the entire community and for the revolution as well. The upshot of such purchases will be production of low-quality goods that will not be able to compete with other commodities in any world market.

Without a tinge of doubt, the commerce minister should consider that the problem of industrial exports will not be resolved by merely adopting a single-rate foreign currency, even though several reasons necessitate a single-rate foreign currency in the entire system. An overhaul of the entire system is called for and pretty urgently too.

Commentary Views Baker's Middle East Mission

LD1907182792 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1507 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker resumed a new round of his Middle East visits when he arrived in Israel today. In the course of his trip, Baker is to visit Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, and [Saudi] Arabia. This is the U.S. secretary of state's ninth visit to the region within the framework of Washington's intensive efforts for the so-called resolution of the Middle East crisis. [passage omitted].

In the opinion of political analysts, Washington's renewed attempt at reactivating the Arab-Israeli talks indicates America's internal needs and the new developments in the Middle East. These analysts believe that on the domestic front, U.S. President Bush hopes to gain fruitful results from the White House efforts for resolving the Middle East crisis by dispatching Baker to the region, and hence, by achieving a successful outcome, to quell the recent doubts raised by the U.S. Congress and media about the ineffectiveness of Washington's foreign policy, and to reemerge triumphant from the election race for the White House .

The regional developments which resulted in renewed U.S. efforts to resolve the Middle East crisis concern the internal political changes in Israel. The downfall of Shamir who pursued the goal of a Greater Israel; the new international conditions which necessitate the resolving of the remaining crises from the cold war era; the spread of Washington's umbrella of influence in the world, especially in the sensitive Middle East region; and the coming to power of Rabin, the White House's favourite pawn—all these have provided America with the opportunity to return to the arena of resolving the Middle East crisis, with renewed hope.

Political analysts believe that there is no cause for harboring the slightest hope of a resolution to the Palestine crisis, and that no fundamental developments have taken place in the region. The new leaders in Tel Aviv have hitherto refused to clearly state their readiness to relinquish their designs on the territories occupied in the six-day war. These analysts believe that what has happened in Israel is that, following the transfer of power to the Labor Party in the wake of the recent elections, the regime has entered the scene with a new policy. In other

words, without changing his regional policy, Rabin has brought Israel's foreign dealings into line with U.S. foreign policy requirments; within this framework, Rabin, as his first decision, halted the politically motivated construction of settlements in parts of the occupied territories, but confirmed the previous policy in occupied territories which are of strategic importance to Israel, from a security angle.

As a result of the present election requirements facing the White House leaders, and Israel's new diplomacy, it is possible that the Arab countries involved in the Middle East talks will come under pressure to pay the necessary cost of establishing peace for Israel and securing Bush's reappointment. Arab countries' concerns arise from various angles. First, that America may accept Rabin's decision to halt the construction of a small section of the settlement in the occupied territories as sufficient initiative for gaining concessions from the Arab countries. Second, that as the evidence indicates, America may accept Rabin's proposal for separate peace talks and create divisions among the Arabs by stalling the talks on the occupied territories with Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan and, by giving priority to talks with the Palestinians, thus begin the talks with the weakest party. Third, that America may agree to a $10 billion loan to Israel, and further disrupt the power equation among the protagonists in the Middle East talks by resolving Israel's urgent economic problems.

It is for these reasons and on the strength of these facts that Syria has already—and before Baker's trip—declared that the Arab countries must not become victims of improved relations between Washington and Tel Aviv. Jordan, Lebanon, and the PLO also harbor the same concern as Syria, albeit to a lesser degree, especially since America and Israel are trying to exert pressure on the Arab governments through their Arab allies. Rabin's decision to visit Cairo in the next few days, and the inclusion of Egypt and [Saudi] Arabia in Baker's travel schedule have strengthened the belief that the acceleration of the Middle East peace plan would give Egypt a more active role in it. In other words, because of its political ties with the Zionist regime and its great influence on the PLO and Jordan, and to a lesser degree on Syria and Lebanon, Egypt could provide grounds for compromise. Mubarak's previous proposal to the Arabs—to remove their economic sanctions against Israel in return for a halt to the construction of settlements in the occupied territories, which received the support of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council—could, if pursued, create a massive rift in the not-so-united ranks of the Arabs, thus bringing Syria under intense pressure.

Political observers are of the opinion that even though U.S. diplomacy and the assistance of its regional allies could play an effective role in Middle Eastern developments, nevertheless the process of regional developments is not limited to the governments, but also involves the Muslim people of the region, who have displayed their presence and capability in dealing with enemy conspiracies at crucial junctures, and who constitute an important element—an element that has generally remained unnoticed by the Western and regional policymakers.

U.S. Congressional Support for MKO Denounced

NC1907145392 Tehran SALAM in Persian 13 Jul 92 p 16

[Unattributed commentary: "The New Antiterrorism Campaign by the U.S. Congress"]

[Text] Two hundred and nineteen members of the U.S. Congress have issued a declaration supporting the monafeqin [derogatory term for the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization—MKO] and asking the U.S. Government to assist them.

Under current circumstances, when this grouplet is at a critical juncture and is considered obsolete by the Iranian public and political circles, what is the meaning of such a declaration? Is there some new U.S. plot underway or is this an attempt to resuscitate the lifeless body of the Monafeqin? It appears more than anything else that the declaration is a result of the constant political efforts the Monafeqin carries out in the houses and offices of members of the U.S. Congress!

The dregs of this grouplet appear to have lost faith in Saddam's support on the border disputes and their terrorist activities within the country. They seek to continue their existence by spying for governments hostile to Iran and having their activities mentioned in the Western media. The so-called revolutionary activity of some of these Monafeqin consists of hovering near the houses and offices of U.S. senators and groveling before them with their alleged revelations about Iran. This is the last resort in what they consider their revolutionary struggle!

It is natural that the continuation of this disgraceful effort may result in the occasional non-committal letter or statement from the U.S. or European parliaments, invariably greeted with indifference by world governments. It appears that the U.S. Government, with its tendency to favor movements opposed to Iran, is seeking to assist the decrepit Monafeqin by investing in this insolvent movement that will soon be relegated to oblivion.

It is important to note this action by members of the U.S. Congress, whose clamor for combating terrorism has risen to the sky. The Monafeqin are known to have been involved in the murder of officials and ordinary people on the street and in their homes, and have admitted to planting bombs. During the period from 28 June to 30 August, which marked the zenith of their terrorist activities, they received support from the U.S. Congress, which considers them the solution to the so-called problem of fundamentalism.

The monafeqin have always lacked credibility as far as our nation is concerned, and there is no need to reopen their dossier. The utter despicability and shamelessness of U.S. politicians, who accuse Iran of supporting terrorism while adopting such dastardly measures, is something worth pondering against the backdrop of today's international political reality and the U.S. new world order.

Arabs Accused of Abandoning Anti-Israel Struggle

NC2007113192 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 13 Jul 92 p 15

[Unattributed editorial: "The World Islamic Movement—Israel's True Enemy"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The Paris weekly JEUNE AFRIQUE has said: "Islamic Iran, with its strong military and ability to mobilize Muslims in the Arab and Islamic world, is the true enemy of Israel." The weekly added: "The Israeli military is extremely apprehensive of Iran's might and greatness and believes that they should not rely solely on the regional balance of power." [passage omitted]

JEUNE AFRIQUE's statement is a reflection of the situation prevailing in the region and in the Islamic world. Many leaders and governments have used strong anti-Israeli slogans when they realized that exploiting the people's anti-Israeli sentiments boosted their popularity. When circumstances changed, however, they changed their policies and abandoned their anti-Israeli slogans. Most of them are now carrying the banner of compromise with Israel and are trying to motivate others to do the same.

The history of the past four decades paints a painful picture of these amazing changes and developments, proving that they are the main reason for the people's absolute mistrust and disillusionment with their governments. Nations have seen the steadfastness of governments over the past few decades. Today, their undeniable and absolute lack of trust in the region's governments reigns supreme.

No government in the region can say that its people failed to support it when it entered the fray against Israel. Over the past four decades, nations have emerged victorious in the struggle, but governments have performed very badly.

The armaments obtained over the years to fight Israel are now being used to suppress Muslim revolutionaries, the most courageous enemies of Israel. Conditions are such that governments are now openly declaring war against the Muslim revolutionaries. The revolutionaries are bearing the brunt of the savage crimes of the various regimes. They are impatiently waiting for a time when war with Israel will be given priority again and the people will have an opportunity to display their revolutionary zeal and fury against the usurpist Zionists.

When four decades of Arab propaganda against Israel was put to the test, the regimes were shown to be incapable of a serious, multifaceted war to the death against Israel.

Today, the Arabs have been disarmed and no one is repeating the slogans about fighting Israel. Even if they are, they are not taking the slogans seriously. The Islamic revolution is the only hope for the annihilation and elimination of Israel. From the beginning it used the slogan "Iran today, Israel tomorrow," and through its efforts showed its revolutionary intent and proved its steadfastness, truthfulness, and determination in fighting Israel. The most revolutionary step in this regard was when Iran severed relations with the Egyptian regime after Egypt signed the disgraceful Camp David Accord. [passage omitted]

Today, with the changes in international and regional conditions, the powers of world arrogance and Zionism are trying to turn things against the Arabs and to Israel's benefit as much as possible. Two almost simultaneous occurrences swiftly tilted the regional balance. First was the disintegration of the Soviet Union, one of the Arabs' main suppliers of arms. Second was the weakness and humiliation resulting from the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait, the profound effects of which touched nearly all of the Arabs and tilted the balance of power in Israel's favor. Israel and its supporters moved quickly to capitalize on the situation, but realized that the main obstacle to the consolidation of Israel's position is still in place. Despite the various attempts to deceive them, the people's faith has been fortified.

Regional conditions prove that nations are hungry to battle Israel. Even the "executioner of Baghdad" managed to capitalize on the noble sentiments of his nation; he knew that even in his blind attacks against Israel, his people would support him. Although his ploy deceived many people in the region, this did not last long. Soon, the nations realized what was happening and saw that they had been swayed by the mirage of Saddam's propaganda. [passage omitted]

Today, friend and foe alike agree that the true struggle against Israel is in the hands of the "World Islamic Movement" that has been inspired by the revolutionary thinking of Imam Khomeyni and calls for the complete elimination of Israel. This movement has its eyes focused on Iran's decisions and performance. This is exactly what JEUNE AFRIQUE said was the main concern of the Israeli generals. [passage omitted]

Normalization With Egypt To Begin by End August

LD2007081792 Tehran IRNA in English 0612 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Athens, July 20, IRNA—A complete normalization of relations between Egypt and the Islamic Republic of Iran will begin by the end of August, well-informed Egyptian sources told Arab daily ASHARQ AL-AWSAT Sunday.

Talks are underway between the two Muslim countries on the exchange of ambassadors, the paper said. Diplomatic representation between Cairo and Tehran is presently limited to the interests section level.

The airlines of Egypt and Iran will also start flying to the two capitals in September. An announcement in this regard will soon be made in Cairo and Tehran simultaneously.

A meeting between Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his Egyptian counterpart 'Amr Musa is expected to take place in August, the Saudi newspaper in a front-page report said.

Mediation by Syria and other Persian Gulf Arab countries between Tehran and Cairo helped in the rapprochement between Iran and Egypt, the paper said.

RESALAT Views Ties With Egypt

LD1907193192 Tehran IRNA in English 1738 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 19, IRNA—Columnist of the Persian daily "RESALAT" Mostafa Mohebbi said in a commentary printed Sunday that Iran and Egypt would do good to set aside their past feelings of ideological difference and launch out on a new lease of historical relations between the two countries.

Mohebbi said while Iran justifiably severed her relations with Egypt immediately after the triumph of the Islamic revolution in Iran the situation internationally and especially in the Arab world is not what it was in 1979.

The daily's columnist said if the mere fact of Egypt's having established relations with the Zionist regime was sufficient cause for Iran to severe relations with Muslim Egypt then for the same philosophy Iran might equally as well sever relations with any other state that had relations with the Zionist regime today.

According to the writer Iran has internationally lost as a result of severing relations with Egypt because as a result of that other Arab states have more conspiciously taken side with Egypt than with Iran.

Mohebbi recommended that Iran upgrade diplomatic relations with Egypt for the interest of both countries and commented that by establishing relations with Egypt Islamic Iran would be able to make its voice reach a wider world community.

The commentary said: "In the wake of the developments over the past few years we are now witnessing two developments within the Arab world: First, the Arab Governments that had severed their relations with Egypt at a past time have one after another resumed their relations with Egypt, second, the Arab states have agreed to negotiate with the usurper Israel.

"Negotiations with Israel which was once a 'basic political no' at the Arab states, was gradually accepted by those states as the result of the U.S. efforts. If one day Anwar Sadaat was the only personality who agreed to sit down at talks with the usurper regime of Israel today almost all Arab Governments, and the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization for that matter, have agreed to talks with Israel.

"Now if the authorization for continued severence of relations with Egypt is her relations with Israel then it means that sooner or later the diplomatic relations of the Islamic republic with all Arab Governments must be severed, since as is evident in the progress of the peace talks diplomatic relations between those governments and Israel will become too conspicuous.

"In addition there are many countries which have diplomatic relations with the regime occupying al-Qods [Jerusalem], if the mere fact of their having relations with Israel is justification for the Islamic republic to sever her relations with those states then it means that our relations with all of them should be severed. If that thesis should be followed up who will be the ultimate winner? Our political system or Israel? In the event of having severed our relations with all the states which have relations with Israel shall we be able to propagate our ideals and our beliefs at the international level? If that thesis in untrue then why should we sever our relations only with Egypt?

"To establish diplomatic relations with Egypt does not mean to legitimize her relations with the regime occupying al-Qods, nor does relations with other Governments that have diplomatic relations with Israel.

"The cultural status of Egypt in the Muslim world and with the Arab world is unique. Many university professors and educators at academic centers throughout the Muslim world were educated in Egypt. Each year a big collection of books in scientific, cultural and political fields are published in Egypt. There are very valuable libraries as well as scientific and cultural centers in Egypt of which our educators and researchers must avail themselves. During the severence of our relations we have been deprived of those valuable sources.

"Egypt has a unique status in the Muslim world and especially with the Arab nations. With respect to her historic past and her geopolitical status has a special role to play in the Arab Middle East which role has been recognized by others, so much so that when the topic under debate is 'Persian Gulf security' Egypt, too, tries to play role for that kind of security.

"The severance in diplomatic relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Egypt has posed Egypt against Iran at the international scene which has prompted certain other countries to adopt a position similar to Egypt against us. It seems diplomatic relations with Egypt can end the present situation.

"Culturally Egyptians are unique in the Arab world. There are Muslim intellectuals, struggling mujahids,

ulema and thinkers with whom we have almost no relation because of the severence in our diplomatic relations with Egypt.

"On the other hand in Islamic Iran there are abundant political, cultural, economic and social appeals which encourage the Egyptians to have relations with us.

"It would not be an exaggeration to say that among Arab countries none is culturally closer to Iran than Egypt is. For many years Persian language and literature was offered at the universities of Egypt, and Egyptian professors have been teaching Persian literature at those universities. Today thousands of Egyptian college students are learning Persian. According to certain reports after the triumph of the Islamic revolution in Iran upwards of 5,000 Egyptian college students have been majoring in Persian literature. This speaks for the cultural infiltration in Egypt of the Islamic Iran.

"Egyptian scholars have always had an interest to associate with Iranian scholars, and have expressly said that in their meetings (with Iranian scholars) in other countries.

"Iran can have a culturally active presence in Egypt-...within that context Iran can establish relations with the Egyptian colleges and universities and its scientific and cultural centers, it can exchange professors and students and books and works of art and sports teams and what not.

"On the other hand the geographic position of Islamic Iran in the Middle East as the mightiest and the most stable nation has always attracted the special attention of the Egyptians...

"It seems it is now time for the two countries to mobilize their joint efforts to normalize their diplomatic relations and upgrade their relations consistent with the international customs."

Commentary Views Ankara-Tel Aviv Ties

NC1907150492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1650 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Hayim Herzog, president of the Zionist state, ended his official visit to Turkey yesterday. The declared aim of Herzog's visit was to take part in the celebrations marking the 500th anniversary of the Jewish emigration from Spain to the Ottoman Empire. During his two-day visit, the Zionist official met Turkish President Turgut Ozal and Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel. The visit caused resentment in the region and Arab countries presented a memorandum to the Turkish Government in Ankara—delivered by the Syrian ambassador—expressing their deep concern over the substantial improvement in relations between Turkey and the Zionist entity.

The Iranian ambassador in Turkey, in an interview with Turkish newspapers, said that the Zionist entity is the main cause of instability in the region. The ambassador said that Herzog is the president of a group of Zionist racists who have occupied Muslim land by force and use all methods of suppression against its inhabitants.

Demonstrations occurred in Ankara and Istanbul on 16 and 17 July to protest Herzog's visit. Muslim demonstrators attacked El Al in Istanbul. Yesterday demonstrators in Istanbul also burned U.S. and Israeli flags to protest the submission of the Turkish Government to Washington's policy that aims at consolidating relations between Ankara and Tel Aviv. It seems that the Turkish officials are, as usual, looking at the matter from a narrow viewpoint. They believe that stronger ties with the Zionist entity will help them get more economic and political aid from Washington.

As soon as the so-called peace talks between the Arab countries and Israel got under way, Turkey hastened to establish some balance in its relations with the Palestinians and the Zionist entity. Palestinian and Zionist embassies opened simultaneously in Ankara, making Turkey only the second Islamic Conference Organization member, after Egypt, to upgrade its diplomatic relations with Israel to embassy level. Such a move will cause disappointment in other Muslim countries. Only recently, the common belief was that Turkey would be slow to take this move in view of its strong economic and political ties with Muslim countries.

Speaking at a dinner banquet in Herzog's honor, Demirel dispelled all doubt about Turkish intentions in this respect by expressing the wish of the Turkish Government to further ties with Tel Aviv. Demirel said, and we quote, that Turkey and Israel share the same democratic principles. Demirel, of course, made no reference to Israel's brutal methods of suppression in the occupied territories, criminal methods that have been denounced in several international resolutions.

The Turkish Muslim people have every right to wonder how the government of a Muslim country allows itself—simply to please Washington—to overlook the criminal practices of the Zionist entity on Islamic land. How can such a government dare speak about alleged democratic principles in the Zionist entity? What if the Zionist entity, with its known expansionist and aggressive intentions, decides one day to attack Turkey, as it does south Lebanon? What will Demirel think then of the alleged democratic principles?

Tehran Notes Acceptance of UN Resolution 598

LD1907143292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1830 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Today, July 18, is the fourth anniversary of acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 598 by

Iran. On July 18 of 1988, the Islamic Republic of Iran accepted Resolution 598 nearly one year after its issuance.

Main reason for the delay on the part of Iran in accepting the Resolution lay in its defective nature due to non-identification of the party starting the war. Iran believed that based on well established and undeniable evidence, the Security Council should have identified the party for the initiation of the eight-year war. But this point was not brought in any of the eight paragraphs of the Resolution. Only the sixth paragraph of the Resolution had asked the UN Secretary-General to present a report identifying the party which initiated the war. On this account, Resolution 598—which was issued by the Security Council on July 20 of 1987 was accepted by Iran one year later.

Now that four years have elapsed since that event, most experts—while justifying the Iranian move—describe 18 of July as the turning point of events in the important Persian Gulf region. The reason is that during the years following the acceptance of Resolution 598 by Iran, initially it was established that Iraqi regime was the aggressor; and secondly, the harm caused by issuance of defective resolutions were pointed out.

In 1988, following acceptance of Resolution 598, contrary to the notion of those individuals who held Iran responsible for the prolongation of the eight-year war, there was initiated yet another large-scale aggression by the Iraqi regime with a considerable part of Iranian lands being occupied by Iraq in the course of this invasion. For this reason, efforts at enforcing the first paragraph of Resolution 598, and establishing an official truce, were realised one month later; that is on August 20 of 1988. Moreover, due to the inadequacy of the contents of Resolution 598, insecurity began to spread in the Persian Gulf region in a way that Kuwait was eventually occupied by Iraq.

Another noteworthy point concerning Resolution 598 is that its provisions have not yet been fully enforced despite a lapse of several years and the occurrence of some tragic events in this regard. It is interesting to note that the Iraqi regime still evades to release the remaining Iranian prisoners of war as it still holds about 5,000 such PoWs. Also, the issue on ascertaining war reparations—on which a report was presented by the UN secretary-general to the Security Council on December 27 of 1991—has been put in a bin. It must be recalled that total damages inflicted upon Iran in the course of the eight-year war come to nearly 1,000 billion dollars.

Another important point is that enforcement paragraph eight of the Resolution has not been brought up at all. Paragraph eight urges the UN secretary general to probe ways and means for further security and stability in the region through consultation with Iran, Iraq and other regional states.

At any rate, in view of the bitter experience gained by the world community from the events of arising out of the Iraqi invasion of Iran, and creation of insecurity in the Persian Gulf region, there appears that in order to avoid such tragic events, the United Nations—and the Security Council—should constantly adopt three important measures: Timely action by the UN upon emergence of such events, issuance of appropriate and well planned resolutions and finally, full enforcement of provisions of a resolution.

Foreign 'Interference' in Afghanistan Assailed

NC1707170892 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 12 Jul 92 p 2

[Text] The Afghan Prime Minister, 'Abdossabur Farid, has requested Iran, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia to refrain from interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

The new Afghan prime minister, who belongs to Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami, has added to that request his expression of gratitude to the three nations for their invaluable aid to the Mojahedin during Afghanistan's 12-year war of resistance against foreign invaders.

'Abdossabur Farid's complaints in fact reflect to some extent the realities prevailing in Afghanistan. There is very little doubt that differences between the armed groups—including the Mojahedin and the groups which joined them after the collapse of the previous regime—are the result of interferences by foreign governments. For instance, the very party to which the new Afghan prime minister belongs, that is, the Hezb-e Eslami party is under the influence of ISI (Pakistan's Security Intelligence Service), and it is even said that the party's military advisors are member of ISI. In fact some political observers believe that Hekmatyar's previous discord with other Mojahedin groups, derived from disagreements between ISI and members of the Pakistan cabinet who did not approve of Hekmatyar's assumption of powerful positions.

Whether or not those reports are to be accorded any credibility, it has to be accepted that the above-mentioned countries possess appreciable degrees of influence in the Afghanistan affair.

But as for Iran's relations with the state of affairs in Afghanistan... [ellipses as published] It is worth noting that Iran is the only country that gave shelter to over two and half million Afghan refugees without receiving any financial assistance from the international organizations. Furthermore, all international organizations concede that in spite of all the social problems created for the government and the people of Iran by the presence of huge crowds of refugees, the refugees generally enjoyed greater degrees of freedom in Iran than those in other countries.

It is also a well-known fact that despite Iraq's 8-year destructive war against Iran, the Islamic Republic extended financial and military assistance to the Mojahedin even at the height of its military involvement, and at the time when the West and the other countries

supporting the Mojahedin, met with Moscow's communist leaders in Geneva for arbitrary settlement of Afghanistan's future, Iran refused to attend the negotiation table at which the Mojahedin were not present.

And today, in spite of the fact that the Afghanistan issue is closely linked with Iran's national security, it has been reported that President Hashemi-Rafsanjani clearly stated at Iran's [Supreme] National Security Council that this country's policy vis-a-vis its eastern neighbor was based on the principle of non- interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs.

In support of the wisdom of such a policy it has to be emphasized that interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan will have no result other than precipitating that country to the verge of a civil war.

Iraq Said Using MIGs in Marshlands Offensive

LD1607200692 Tehran IRNA in English 1634 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 16, IRNA—Saddam Husayn's troops on Wednesday launched a new military attack against the populated areas in the south's remote marshlands using MIG-23s, helicopters, tanks and heavy artillery, the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) sources from the south reported today. They said that Saddam's elite Republican Guards, backed by tanks, artillery, helicopters and for the first time MiG-23 planes, launched the attack on areas of Umm al-Hush, al-Muzar, al-Hishayah and al-Wadiyah in the marshlands of al-'Amarah Province.

The SAIRI sources said the popular forces in these areas fought a fierce battle with the attacking troops which lasted for seven hours. They added that the attacking troops sustained big human and material losses including the death of about 100 military men, seven of them officers and the destruction of a big quantity of weapons and military equipment. "After this battle, the regime's troops have been forced to retreat," they elaborated.

Last Tuesday, SAIRI's information center published reports about the Iraqi regime's new military preparations to launch the attack and the preliminary artillery shelling of the above-mentioned areas. It quoted a field commander for the popular forces as saying that the regime may launch its new attack coinciding with the annual anniversary of the 17th July coup which brought the Ba'th Party to power in Iraq in 1968.

Velayati Returns To Tehran, Views Germany Visit

LD1707163492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Jul 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati returned to Tehran this afternoon after his official three-day visit to Germany where he held talks with the officials of that country. In an interview with our correspondent he said: Following the telephone conversation of our country's president with Mr Kohl and my visit to Germany, a new chapter has been opened in the two countries relations.

The foreign minister added: Industrial cooperation between the two countries, transfer of advanced technology from Germany to Iran, and an increase exports of Iran's oil and agricultural produce to Germany were the main topics of negotiations during this visit.

Mr Velayati referred to a message which he handed over from our country's president to Mr Kohl, the German chancellor, and he said: In the not too distant future we will witness a visit by the German chancellor to Tehran.

German Nuclear Cooperation Wanted

LD1807215292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1830 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] The two-day visit of Iran's Foreign Minister, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, to Germany—which concluded this Thursday afternoon—provided another opportunity for a reassessment of the age-old ties between the two major and strategic countries located in Asia and Europe. Iran and Germany are countries which have enjoyed relatively sound relations for many centuries and, on account of certain common racial traits, have paid special attention to one another despite being geographically distant.

The issues discussed at length by Dr. Velayati in his meetings with the German foreign and economy ministers and the chancellor during these two days point to the great significance attached by the two countries to the promotion of ties. Concerning this, Dr. Velayati said:

[Announcer-read report] The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Federal Republic of Germany observe good prospects for their bilateral and international relations and can enjoy more expanded cooperation. The German chancellor, in the course of his meeting with Dr. Velayati noted: Germany believes that Iran has a big role in the new global situation and that it must play this role to the extent of its capability. He described the Persian Gulf region as the most sensitive region of the world and viewed Iran as the most important state in the region, declaring his country's readiness to cooperate with Iran at a vast level.

However, the two-day trip of Iran's foreign minister was not limited solely to stress the two countries' desire for promotion of this cooperation. In the course of his visit, greater emphasis was placed on two subjects, as he called for an end to the trade imbalance between Tehran and Bonn and also for the completion of the unfinished projects of German contractors in Iran.

Despite the fact that Germany has been the top trading partner of Iran over the past decade, the volume of Bonn's purchases and imports from Tehran has stood at a low level. Undoubtedly, due attention of German officials to this subject and creation of balance in bilateral trade will be instrumental in further growth of

bilateral ties. Also the German officials' attention toward the unfinished projects in Iran will prove effective and significant in removing the obstacles in the way of expansion of ties between Tehran and Bonn.

In this connection, the unfinished nuclear power plant in Bushehr is among the projects that have been (?muted) during the previous year. Late July last year, in the wake of German Economy Minister, Jurgen Mollemann's visit to Tehran and the first session of the Iran-German Economic Cooperation Commission, Mr. Mollemann officially announced that Bonn would not cooperate in the rebuilding and completion of the Bushehr nuclear power plant. This unilateral opinion was (?strongly) criticized at that very time by Iran's President, Hashemi-Rafsanjani. While expressing his dissatisfaction over such a posture of the German official, Mr. Rafsanjani called for further efforts by officials of the two countries to resolve this problem; hoping for a solution to emerge at the next talks between the Iranian and German officials.

At any rate, during his two-day visit to Germany, Dr. Velayati emphatically stressed the issue of the completion of the German contractors' unfinished projects in Iran. In consideration of the fact that Iran has constantly shown good-will toward promotion of Tehran-Bonn relations, and has devoted considerable efforts towards the release of the German hostages in Lebanon, expectations of an identical response from the German Government appears to be something natural and logical.

Austrian Foreign Minister Arrives in Tehran 18 Jul

NC1907061392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] Austria considers the Islamic Republic of Iran a politically and economically superior regional power and seeks to expand relations with Tehran. Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock, who arrived in Tehran last night at the head of a political-economic delegation and was welcomed by Foreign Minister Velayati, told our correspondent at Mehrabad Airport that his country is interested in participating in Iran's development programs and in the reconstruction of war-torn areas.

The Austrian foreign minister added: Austria has always supported UN Security Council Resolution 598 and wants all its paragraphs to be fully implemented. He expressed hope that several memoranda of understanding will be signed between the two sides.

Commenting on economic cooperation between the two countries, Mock said: Efforts should be made to create a balance between Iranian and Austrian exports and imports. He added: Many of the products exported by Iran to Austria are not liable to custom tariffs. But Iran wants the foreign exchange tariffs on all exports to be lifted, and we will study this issue within the framework of GATT.

Mock on Bosnia-Hercegovina

NC1907063792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] The Austrian foreign minister has stated that if the latest cease-fire agreement in Bosnia-Hercegovina is not implemented, military steps should be taken. Alois Mock, who was speaking to correspondents in Tehran, added: The Serbs' genocide against Muslims and the racial extermination in Bosnia-Hercegovina are acts that were not perpetrated even during World War II in Europe.

On the basis of the London agreement, the conflicting sides in Bosnia-Hercegovina have agreed to implement a two-week cease-fire starting at 1800 local time [in Bosnia-Hercegovina] today. Bosnia-Hercegovina officials are not optimistic that the Serbs will display goodwill in implementing this agreement.

Mock, Ne'matzadeh Discuss Cooperation

LD1907184792 Tehran IRNA in English 1704 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 19, IRNA—The Irano-Austrian Joint Commission for Economic-Industrial Cooperation will meet in Vienna this fall, it was announced here today in the meeting between Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock and Minister of Industry Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh.

The two officials discussed ways of expanding bilateral cooperation and expressed satisfaction over the course of the present talks as well as the outcome of the previous joint commissions.

Referring to the progress in Tehran-Vienna relations, Mock said the two-fold increase in the volume of bilateral trade exchanges in the past two years can be a token of the two countries' ties.

According to Mock, the 53 percent increase in Iran's exports to Austria could be indicative of their move towards achieving a trade balance.

Ne'matzadeh in reply said that the problem of insurance rates was hindering further expansion of trade exchanges, and called on Austria to remove this bottleneck by revising its insurance rates.

He also stressed expansion of cultural and scientific cooperation, pointing out that ample opportunities exist in the fields of power, construction, engineering, medicine and electronics.

In view of Iran's geo-political situation, the two sides proposed that the forthcoming joint commission study prospects of Iran- Austria joint ventures in the former Soviet republics.

It was also announced that some 60 Austrian companies would participate in the 18th Tehran International Trade Fair to be held in the first week of October.

'Full Satisfaction' With Talks

LD1907212292 Tehran IRNA in English 1941 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 19, IRNA—The foreign ministers of Iran and Austria Sunday evening expressed "full satisfaction" with the result of an Austrian delegation's visit to Tehran.

"I am very satisfied with the result of my visit. I have had most interesting political talks with Iranian officials and additional impulses have been provided for economic cooperation which has been improving since 1988," said Alois Mock who arrived here Saturday night at the head of a political-economic delegation for a two-day visit.

Mock was received by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today. He also held talks with his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri and Industries Minister Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh.

Speaking in an interview with IRNA after a banquet given in his honor by Velayati, Mock also expressed satisfaction with the strengthening political relations between the two countries.

Velayati's assessment of Mock's visit was also "very positive". He said Iran and Austria have enjoyed good relations which have been gradually improving to the extent that the former Austrian president Kurt Waldheim paid an official visit to Iran last year. He said Mock's visit was in line with the growing relations between Tehran and Vienna in various areas.

The two foreign ministers disclosed their intention to have joint cooperation with the Central Asian republics. Velayati said initial agreement had been reached to start this "important" cooperation.

In view of the numerous joint projects between Iran and the Central Asian republics, Velayati said, Austria was eager to establish close contacts with these newly-independent states and expand its relations with them through Iran's cooperation.

Mock spoke of a bid for a railway project to link Iran to Turkmenistan. He said agreements had been reached in principle to carry out joint ventures with Iran in the Central Asian republics, adding that these countries needed foreign assistance particularly in infrastructural projects and industrialization.

On a possible visit to Austria by President Rafsanjani, the first to Western Europe by an Iranian president, Velayati told IRNA that Rafsanjani had accepted an invitation extended to him by Waldheim to visit Vienna. He said Mock had informed him that the new Austrian president too regarded the invitation as valid. "I conveyed the message to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani who accepted the renewed invitation," Velayati said, adding that the two foreign minister will work out an appropriate date for the visit.

Iran-Austria Joint Economic Commission is to meet in Vienna in fall and Mock said in the interview that a rise of 53 percent in Iran's exports to Austria indicated the improving trend in bilateral economic relations. He also said that 60 Austrian firms are to attend the forthcoming Tehran International Trade Fair to be held in Tehran in October.

In his meeting with Mock Sunday morning, President Rafsanjani regretted the attitude of the big powers and international organizations towards the massacre of Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina [B-H]. He also lauded Austria's position in this respect.

Austria is for an immediate end to the Serbian aggression in B-H, the recognition of the independence of B-H and achieving understanding between the various ethnic groups.

Mock in the interview with IRNA said there were numerous reasons for the weakness on the part of the international community. One important reason, he said, was that "the events occurring in B-H are against all rules of military warfare and humanitarian principles."

"People are chased from their houses, properties are confiscated, sometimes fathers are executed and more frequently territories are ethnically cleared...and these are all crimes perpetrated against basic human rights," Mock regretted. He also said that the credibility of international security mechanisms is suffering heavily because the people expect intervention, even militarily, to save the besieged Bosnians and Croatians in the embattled country.

Austria has said it will offer a plan for military action in B-H if a ceasefire agreement between the belligerent parties failed to hold. According to latest reports the ceasefire signed in London this week, was violated only one hour after it went into effect Sunday evening.

Mock said Vienna was very serious with its plan for military action, adding that the UN Security Council also had not ruled out the same. He said the Security Council should take enforcement measures to guarantee what it had decided itself.

On the same subject, Velayati said Iran and Austria shared many views. He said both countries were very much concerned over the crimes being committed against Muslims and the Croatians in B-H and condemned them.

He also said he had been in constant contact with his Austrian counterpart on the issue and that Iran's relief aid to the people of Bosnia had been sent through Vienna. "We are ready to continue our cooperation with Austria in this respect," he stressed.

On a letter addressed to the UN secretary general by a group of 30 Austrian parliamentarian on the eve of Mock's visit to Tehran, calling for arms embargo against Iran for alleged human rights violations, Velayati said:

"There are various parties in Austria who have representatives in the parliament. The present government is one of the most powerful Austria has ever had—a strong coalition. There is also a minority in the parliament who do not agree with the government and oppose it in various scenes, including the foreign policy.

"It (the letter) is not an unexpected event. But we do not care about it as it would have no negative impact on our friendly relations with Austria."

On the same question, Mock said he was not aware of the contents of the letter. "Our parliamentarians are free and it is upto them what to do," he said. He added, however, that Austria has always expected Iran to fully respect human rights "in the framework of friendly relations between the two countries."

Referring to the coordinated propaganda campaign against Iran in Europe on the pretext of human rights violations, Velayati accused the Zionists of exercising influence, particularly on the Western media to exert pressure against Tehran. "They are not happy to see a powerful Islamic state emerging in the region—a state which has come to power by relying on Islamic tenets and which is a shelter to world Muslims. Therefore, they use every lever to put pressure on Iran and this (the human rights issue) is just one of these levers," Velayati regretted.

Pakistan

Sharif Urges 'No Bloodshed' Solution in Kashmir

BK1907114492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has said Pakistan is keen to find a political settlement of the Kashmir problem in accordance with the UN resolutions without any bloodshed. He was addressing a mammoth public meeting marking the Accession to Pakistan Day in Muzaffarabad today. He made it clear that Pakistan would not shirk its duty to awaken the conscience of the international community toward the plight of the people of occupied Kashmir who are locked in a life and death struggle for the liberation of their motherland. The prime minister said it was in the interest of India as well to help solve the problem peacefully at the earliest on the basis of the right of self-determination enshrined in the UN resolution. Assuring the people of occupied Kashmir of Pakistan's unflinching commitment to their cause, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif declared it would spare no effort to extend its political, diplomatic, and moral support at every fora to help them achieve liberation from the Indian occupation. The meeting was also addressed by the Azad Kashmir president, Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan and the prime minister, Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan.

Visits, Addresses Refugees

BK1907070492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has expressed confidence that the sacrifices being rendered by the freedom fighters in the occupied Kashmir would not go in vain and the time is not far off when the refugees living in Pakistan and Azad Kashmir would return to their homes victoriously. He was addressing the Kashmiri refugees at (Ambod) camp near Muzaffarabad last evening. He assured the refugees that as long as they are in Azad Kashmir, they will be given all possible assistance on the humanitarian grounds to enable them to live in peace and comfort. He paid tribute to martyrs who had laid down their lives in the liberation struggle in the occupied territory.

A spokesman of the refugees, Advocate Nurullah Qureshi, narrated circumstances that forced them to leave their homes in the occupied territory. A delegation of Tehrik-i-Hurriyat-i-Kashmir [Kashmir Freedom Movement] led by Farooq Rahmani called on the prime minister and apprised him of the liberation struggle being waged in the occupied territory. Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan, Prime Minister Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan and Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs Sardar Mehtab Ahmad Abbasi were also present on the occasion.

Stresses 'Moral, Political' Support

BK1807150692 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 18 Jul 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has reiterated that Pakistan will continue its moral, political, and diplomatic support to the valiant struggle launched by the Kashmiri people to achieve their right of self-determination. The prime minister was talking to newsmen at Muzaffarabad Airport on his arrival for a two-day stay in the capital of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

The prime minister said the Kashmiri people have launched a movement in line with the teachings of the holy Koran and sunna [traditions of Prophet Muhammad] to achieve their right of self-determination. The prime minister said through the UN resolutions, the world body is committed to provide the right of self-determination to the people of Kashmir.

PTV [Pakistan Television] representative says Kashmiri people are observing Accession to Pakistan Day tomorrow with the renewed pledge to achieve their objective. Public rallies and processions are being held throughout Kashmir in support of their demand. It was on the 19th of July 1947 when the representatives of the Kashmiri people resolved to make Kashmir a part of

Pakistan. The biggest rally will be addressed by the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, and other Kashmiri leaders in Muzaffarabad tomorrow.

Immediately after his arrival, the prime minister visited a refugee camp set up for the Kashmiri refugees in Muzaffarabad and assured them help. The prime minister will also meet Kashmiri leaders and review the different development schemes of the Azad territory.

Urges UN Action

BK1907145392 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1600 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] The Kashmiris are observing today Accession to Pakistan Day with a renewed pledge to continue their struggle for the right of self-determination in accordance with UN resolutions. Public meetings and rallies are being held throughout Azad Kashmir and Pakistan to express complete solidarity with Mojahedin in occupied Kashmir. The day is observed every year to commemorate the historic resolution adopted by the general council of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference on 19th July 1947 in Srinagar.

Addressing a mammoth public gathering in connection with Accession to Pakistan day in Muzaffarabad today, the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, said the United Nations must exercise its influence on India to get its resolutions on occupied Kashmir implemented as it did in case of Kuwait. The prime minister was accorded a warm welcome when he arrived at the public meeting. [video shows clips of Sharif being welcomed at rally by slogan- shouting crowd, Sharif and others addressing rally]

The prime minister said Pakistan will continue to extend its diplomatic, political, and moral support to the Kashmiri people in their just struggle for the right of self-determination. Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif appealed to the world conscience to take notice of the plight of Kashmiri people and gross violations of human rights in occupied Kashmir. He said his government had raised the Kashmir issue at international fora and Pakistan will step up its efforts in this regard. He said Pakistan wants a peaceful solution of the Kashmir issue in accordance with UN resolutions. The prime minister paid rich tributes to the valiant Kashmiri people and expressed the confidence that sacrifices being rendered by them would not go to waste and are destined to achieve success. He said thousands of people have been killed, a large number have been disabled, while women are being dishonored in the held-valley.

Addressing the gathering, a leader of the Teherik-i-Hurriyat-i-Kashmir [Kashmir Freedom Movement], Dr. Ghulam Qadir Wani, urged the United Nations to implement its resolutions on Kashmir. The president of Azad Kashmir, Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan, lauded the efforts of the Pakistan government for raising the Kashmir issue at the international level. He expressed the confidence that Kashmiris will succeed in their just struggle. The prime minister of Azad Kashmir, Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan, said the brave people of occupied Kashmir are fighting a unique war against India as they are not dependent on any foreign help. He said the integrity and solidarity of Pakistan is as dear to us as the liberation of Kashmir. He said relations with India cannot be normalized without the solution of the Kashmir problem.

Presiding over the Azad Kashmir cabinet in Muzaffarabad this morning, the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, announced an additional development grant of one billion rupees for the area. The grant, unprecedented in the history of Azad Kashmir, will help provide more job opportunities to the people. It will also help in improving basic infrastructure, educational institutions and hospitals in the area. He announced that Islamabad-Muzaffarabad road will be reconstructed by the federal government. The prime minister said federal government will also reconstruct Muzaffarabad-Jakothi and Muzaffarabad-Garhi Habibullah road. The prime minister said his government will help educate in developing tourism in the area and necessary facilities in this regard will be provided. He also announced a grant of 50 million rupees for welfare of AJK [Azad Jammu and Kashmir] Police.

Compromise Appeal Against Opposition Withdrawal

BK1907132592 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 18 Jul 92 p 6

[Editorial: "PDA Must Not Succumb to Its Chain of Frustrations"]

[Text] The People's Democratic Alliance [PDA] seems to be unable to shed its habit of speaking incoherently and far too frequently for its own good. Now it is threatening to resign en masse from all legislatures, including the federal. There are scores of very valid reasons why it shouldn't be contemplating anything of the kind. Politics of resignation is patently politics of withdrawal. It is negative expression of a mood rooted in grievance. However genuine the grievance the PDA might have—and most of their grievances are without doubt genuine—resignation is unlikely to procure the needed remedy. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is quite happy and would like to see the PDA out of the assemblies. He can hardly wait to hold by-elections. He knows the art of winning elections against Himalayan odds. He has hid experts. Didn't he win the 1990 elections, turning the country's 1988 picture upside down? More recently, his man won hands down in the late Jam Sadiq Ali constituency. No wonder Mr Nawaz Sharif has gleefully welcomed the PDA's reported toying with the idea of relinquishing their not inconsequential presence in the national and provincial legislatures. PDA would be most ill advised to let its sense of grievance get the better of its political common sense.

For his part, Premier Nawaz Sharif has let the cat out of the bag. He is almost admitting that he has made the life

of his political opponents (also critics in non-political positions) so undurably miserable that they have started talking loudly of giving up the ghost. To say the very least, it is most indelicate for a Prime Minister tirelessly boasting of overwhelming majority behind him, to talk to the opposition so dismissively. If his democratic pretentions have an iota of truth, he ought to be advising the PDA against any idea of vacating their seats in the National and provincial legislatures. Instead, he should have invited the opposition leadership for an earnest discussion of their complaints and grievances. Clearly, Mr Nawaz Sharif is substituting sniffy arrogance for his diminishing self-confidence. This sort of Dutch courage is not quite the way to enhance one's stock when it may be on the decline.

The People's Democratic Alliance is admittedly not the grouping which would scare anyone in Pakistan of today. But the PDA leadership would be doing itself less than good if it developed any sense of inferiority and helplessness. No doubt, the PDA has received a most shabby and distasteful treatment from the government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Sadly, the President hasn't cared to help heal the rift. As an elder statesman it was his moral as well as political duty to do that. Instead he has given the appearance of being less than impartial and not always disinclined to take a hand in matters he had better left alone. The PDA have solid reasons to be unhappy, but none to be hopeless. The government of Mr Nawaz Sharif is unwittingly cooperating with the opposition by unending chain of political indiscretions and administrative bloomers. The PDA has more goodwill than it perhaps realises. It ought to be building upon it, regardless of the obstructions deliberately contrived by the governments, national as well as provincial. This is not the end of the world. Now, a word to the Prime Minister. Please try to put your fingers on the pulse of the nation. Or, even before that, look back on your government's performance. There is not a corner in your cupboard where you do not have a skeleton lurking. There is no harm in self-analysis. If you do not have such trained minds which can make an unbiased assessment of your government's record to date, please hire some from abroad. Some Satchis and Satchis, for instance. Things are not as rosy as you might think or as your Radio and Television would like you to think. You want to complete your term. Another two years or so in office. That is, another two years or so of making mistakes! Another point to ponder is that when the next geneal elections do come round you may not necessarily have the kind of expertise available which made your 1990 triumph possible. We live in a fast changing world, even in Pakistan. Tomorrow is another day.

Army Role in Withdrawal Viewed

BK1907131392 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 18 Jul 92 p 10

[Editorial: "The Politics of Quitting"]

[Text] Is the fat in the fire? Is it for real this time? The crisis is big enough, perhaps bigger than the earlier co-ops and Veena Hyat affairs. Has the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] finally given in to the strong pro-resignation stance of those parties in the PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] who don't have to resign because they don't have a single elected member in the assemblies? One hears the alliance had some argument over whether the PPP should go back to the wilderness of 1986. Nawaz Sharif is promising it a repeat of that wilderness by saying that he would hold by-elections after the resignations and carry on till 1995 with assemblies packed with IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] and its fellow-travellers. The PPP has bought some time by interposing a "nationwide" agitation on the July 30 between now and the resignations any time during the first fortnight of next month. The agitation will probably decide whether it would be wise to go ahead with resignations agreed in principle by PDA on Thursday in Islamabad. PDA's equation with Nawabzada's APC [All Party Conference] was soured by an earlier perception in the PPP that the time for derring-do, as prescribed by the Nawabzada, hadn't come. There is a difference between those who have nothing to lose and those who have something to lose.

PDA secretary-general Khurshid Mehmud Kasuri has let on through his pointed condemnation of chief minister Wyne for blaspheming against the army. Will the army help out an alliance which supports it in the supposed quarrel between the GHQ [General Headquarters] and the PM [Prime minister]-President combine? (Look, the PDA is asking for both the heads!) The presumption is that the agitation planned for July 30, after being efficiently crushed by the IJI minions masquerading as state bureaucracy, will arouse the dudgeon of the army which will thereafter somehow ask the two to hand over to an "even-handed" interim set-up and retire gracefully. The biggest "if" is: Will the PDA get the people behind it on July 30 to convince the army that IJI's handpicked police offices and DCs [district commissioners] have offended the nation? In the hot monsoon season, this is taking a lot of risk. On the other hand, had the PDA a nod from the GHQ about resignations, it would have quit in one day without internal bickering. The truth of the matter is that the president is not budging and Mian Sahib is not able to make a deal. Both seem ready to face off the PDA on the streets without a referee because they know they can crush the agitation. But if there is a referee, then the president and the PM are in grave trouble and Pakistan may be on the verge of seeing the breaking of another political order just because our clearly incompetent politicians can't break their deadlocks.

Sindh Chief Views Resignation of MQM Members

BK1907162092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] Sindh Chief Minister Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah said Operation Clean Up launched in Sindh has been impartial and fair, is yielding positive results, and is

being welcomed by people in urban and rural areas. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon, he said that people in rural areas where people used to stay awake at night are carrying out their routine work now, and peace and tranquility has returned in the province. He said his government is the first one to launch an operation of this kind to wipe out all criminals in the province. He said there are numerous problems in Sindh which should be resolved at various levels. In this connection, he lauded Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif's programs on socioeconomic reforms, which were announced by him during his recent visit to the province. The programs are aimed at removing the sense of deprivation among youths and opening up paths of development in social sectors.

On the resignation of Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] members of the assembly, he said the deputy speaker has received letters, but the resignations (?will) not be accepted until the members appear in person. In this regard, he said, we are bound by the verdict of the Supreme Court to personally verify the resignations. The Sindh chief minister said the Altaf Hussain group of MQM is not a partner in the coalition government in Sindh. Replying to a question, he said those found guilty of violating the law will be tried in court. He said he had heard that there are a few cases against Altaf Hussain, and after investigations, action will be taken according to law. He said before the current Operation Clean Up, his government had no knowledge of MQM's labor camps in Karachi.

Ordinance Gives More Powers to Military

BK1907144292 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 19 Jul 92

[Text] The president has promulgated the Code of Criminal Procedure Amendment Ordinance 1992, amending Code of Criminal Procedure 1898 under which the Armed Forces shall have the powers of search, arrest, and seizure of offensive weapons taken from persons so arrested as available to the police under Chapter 5 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The ordinance comes into force at once and shall be deemed to have taken effect on the 28th of May 1992. In exercise of these powers, the officer shall as far as may be [as heard] follow the restrictions and conditions laid down in the code. It says no person doing so in good faith in compliance with the requisition shall be deemed fit to have thereby committed an offense and no prosecution shall be instituted in any court against any officer or soldier, sailor, or airmen in the Armed Forces except with the sanction of the federal government. The ordinance said if the provincial government is satisfied that for public security, protection of life and property, public peace, maintenance of law and order it is necessary to secure the assistance of the armed forces, the provincial government may require, with the prior approval of the federal goverment, or the federal government on the request of the provincial government, direct any officer of the Armed Forces to render such assistance with the help of the Armed Forces under his command.

Three Leftist Parties Form Alliance

BK1907103792 Islamabad THE NATION in English 18 Jul 92 p 2

[Text] Islamabad—After a two-day convention the leaders of Quami Mahaz-e-Azadi, Pakistan Workers Party and Qammi Inqilabi Party decided to dissolve their parties to form a new party i.e. Awami Jamhoori Party [AJP].

Announcing formation of AJP, Abid Hasan Manto Advocate and Mairaj Mohammad Khan told newsmen here on Friday that an interim structure of the new party was agreed upon to work till 1993. "For that period, leadership of the party will remain collective. In the first phase of organisation, the leadership has set up provincial organising committees. During the current phase of the job Tariq Lateef will be the provincial organiser for the Punjab", he elaborated.

The AJP leaders criticised the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] government saying that since 1977 all the decisions concerning future of the country had been taken by the establishment headed by Ghulam Ishaq Khan and as a consequence the country fallen into the crisis after crisis. "But the current crisis was worst ever as the conditions in Sindh were quite alarming, linguistic divide in Balochistan was deepening and in the NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province] and Punjab sectarian disharmony was on the increase", they lamented.

They said that they had made it clear that there was no reason for military's inclusion in the civil setup. "Now it seems that all the decisions are being made by the army and civil authority does not exist".

Their main target was President Ghulan Ishaq Khan who they alleged had created all obstacles in the way of restoration of democracy. "Sindh government has now made the situation even worse and bitterness has increased to an unprecedented level", they added.

Replying to a question Abid Manto suggested the government that it should voluntarily resign and the President be asked to hold fresh elections. Because they have failed he pleaded.

Replying to another question, they said "we are against the President and do not favour the use of martial law-made 8th Amendment".

Answering another question, they said that the 1973 Constitution had lost its original worth and this situation called for drafting of a fresh constitution.

They said that the Awami Jamhoori Party would launch a country-wide campaign against the present government.

U.S. Assailed for Lack of Support

BK1907105392 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 19 Jul 92 p 6

[Editorial: "Pakistan-Baiting Continues in Washington"]

[Text] Signals from the United States continue to be abrasive. Pakistan's record of cooperation and friendliness over the years has been consistent to a fault. This begins to look like a big blunder committed by Pakistan, now that one looks back. Using one pretext or another, the US government has been engaged in Pakistan-baiting. The excuse now more frequently employed to undermine the vital interests of this country is a fanciful perception of our nuclear research and development activities. Islamabad has repeatedly asserted that whatever the status of this programme, it is geared exclusively to peaceful and unwarlike purposes. Pakistan's word is not accepted, which is hardly a gesture of friendship and mutual esteem. Apart from political and diplomatic snubs and even overt threats, Washington has done Pakistan down in other extraordinary ways. The most blatant of unkind steps taken by the US government is its refusal to supply F-16 fighter planes, a duty concluded contract and commitment, notwithstanding. Pakistan had made payment in hard cash. This sum of Pakistani money, running into billions of dollars, is blocked. We are neither getting the F-16s, nor our money. This is free trade a la George Bush. Or, his New World Order. Pakistan's pleas for fair play in this regard are greeted with pettyfogging [as published] and chicanery. As if this was not enough to strike at Pakistan where it hurts most, the US government is dragging feet over the supply of spare parts for US equipment used by the Pakistan armed forces. This is the surest way to render some of the most sophisticated equipment worse than junk. On this point, too, the US is adamantly rufusing to be fair.

What is Pakistan, once the most allied of US allies, being so mistreated for? Because the United States insists we are not complying with its commands in respect of our nuclear research and devlopment programme and plans. We have not only stated that our nuclear programme is totally peaceful, the government of Pakistan has a long and flawless record of serious initiatives in the direction of nuclear non-proliferation. Pakistan found the necessary of undertaking nuclear research forced upon itself by India's explosion of a nuclear device of patently warlike nature in 1974 [sentence as published]. India today has proven nuclear capability in the field of weapons. Pakistan is way behind. And yet, from time to time, Pakistan has been putting across proposals in search of progress in its efforts to promote the cause of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. Pakistan has proposed and canvassed earnestly for a nuclear-free zone in South Asia. It should be noted that this proposal of Pakistan has repeatedly been endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly since 1974. India has opposited it. In 1978 Pakistan proposed a joint Pakistan-India declaration denouncing the acquisition and manufacture of nuclear weapons. This move was negatived by New Delhi, and the US also showed no great interest. This must have encouraged India to ignore Pakistan's initiative. A year later, Pakistan suggested bilateral inspection of nuclear facilities and establishment between Pakistan and India. Pakistan also proposed simultaneous acceptance by Islamabad and New Delhi of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards and simultaneous accession to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Once again India turned down the move. Then, in 1987 Pakistan proposed a nuclear non-proliferation agreement in South Asia under the auspices of the United Nations. As late as June 6 last year the government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif proposed a five power arrangement for nonproliferation of nuclear weapons in the whole of Asian continent, involving China, India, Russia, the United States and Pakistan. Except for India, all parties gave the proposal a green signal. The United States is on record appreciating this Pakistani move.

With all that, government of the United States has chosen to treat Pakistan with the stick while nuclear powers like India, Israel and South Africa receive the carrot. Can the sense of values in Washington be less susceptible to good sense and good conscience? What the policy-makers in Washington inexplicably fail to realise is that in Pakistan today there is a very strong political lobby in favour of Pakistan going ahead full steam in the direction of acquiring nuclear capability in the sphere of defence. By inflicting upon Pakistan both hurt and humiliation, the US is strengthening the hands of the nuclear lobby and compromising the moderates. This helps neither the cause of nonproliferation nor of Pakistan-US friendship. One should normally assume that both would be seen by Washington as matters of some interest to the United States.

F-16 Issue To Be Appealed to International Court

BK1907103592 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 19 Jul 92 p 4

[Text] Lahore—Pakistan is engaging the services of two renowned lawyers of international law to invoke the jurisdiction of International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the issue of non-supply of F-16s.

The News has reliably learnt that the Pakistan government has entered into negotiations with two prominent lawyers of the United States and France for taking up the matter before the international court in order to obtain its ruling on the contracted sale of F-16s to Pakistan.

The foreign lawyers would be assisted by one or two eminent lawyers from Pakistan.

The petition, according to sources, is to be moved immediately after the payment of the fifth and the last quarterly installment to the US government by Pakistani authorities.

Up till now, Pakistan has already paid two installments to the US authorities and is required to pay three more installments according to the original contract.

It has been learnt that the US government has never objected to the receipt of installments despite the overt and repeated statements by many US dignitaries, including the latest by US envoy Nicolas Platt that the US would not supply F-16s to Pakistan.

The excuse put forth for the nonsupply is that Pakistan is going nuclear and is, therefore, not entitled to the purchase of both the sophisticated and conventional weaponry from the US as per the requirements of the Pressler Amendment.

The original contract signed between the Pakistan and US governments, however, does not lay down any such pre-conditions—such as those envisaged in the Pressler Amendment nor does it suggest the suspension of supply in case Pakistan decides to go nuclear.

The Pakistan government is convinced that it stands all the chances of winning an ICJ ruling in its favour under the obligations and considerations of international law.

Islamabad is of the considered opinion that the ICJ is most likely to pass a verdict in line with the contract which has been signed under international law and which does not mention either the Pressler Amendment or any other prohibitory clause. According to well-informed circles, both the US Congress and Senate are opposed to the supply of arms to Pakistan and want a strict application of Pressler Amendment to Pakistan's case.

Simultaneously, they want the US administration to issue a certificate that Pakistan would not go for a nuclear explosion.

In line with the restrictions imposed by the US legislature, the US government has been compelled to suspend the supply of arms including the conventional arms to Pakistan.

Pakistan's decision to move the ICJ is said to enjoy the tacit approval of the US administration given its odd position vis-a-vis the adamant attitude of the US legislators. The US government finds it considerably difficult to get the deal going through both the Senate and the Congress.

Informed circles believe the acceptance of regular installments from Pakistan is an evidence of this tacit approval.

These circles say that the ruling by ICJ in Pakistan's favour can remove all the obstacles in the way of US administration, which is inclined to maintain friendly ties with Pakistan and supply the F-16s in the light of the original contract.

Cooperation Established With Kabul, Tashkent

BK2007061792 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Text] Pakistan, Afghanistan and Uzbekistan have agreed to establish a triparite ministerial committee which will formulate recommendations for promoting cooperation among three Muslim states. The agreement was reached during Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif's joint meeting with the visiting high-level deelgations from Afghanistan and Uzbekistan in Islamabad yesterday. The first session of the tripartite committee will be held within a fortnight. In the mean time technical experts from the three countries are expected to meet in Tashkent for preliminary discussions.

Welcoming the Afghan and Uzbek delegations, the prime minister said their visit will lead to positive outcome in facilitating bilateral as well as trilateral agreements and promoting understanding. He expressed Pakistan's deep interest in restoration of communications links with Afghanistan and Central Asian states. The Afghan and Uzbek delegations apprised the prime minister of the tripartite negotiations on transit trade and reconstruction of roads in Afghanistan. The Afghan delegation was led by Minister of Construction Engineer Mohammad Yaser, while Uzbek Delegation was led by Highways Minister (Rustam Yunisov). Minister of State for Communication Mohammad Azam Hoti was also present on the occasion.

Uzbek Highways Minister (Rustam Yunisov) has said that relations between Pakistan and his country are steadily growing in all spheres of life, including political, economic, and communications. Addressing a reception in Karachi yesterday, he said both countries have already signed a number of agreements for promoting their relations. He said prospects of expanding our cultural and economic relations have further increased following Uzbekistan's membership of the Economic Cooperation Organization.

Sri Lanka

Anti-LTTE Thrust Achieves Military Objectives

BK1707113992 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] Troops of Operation Balawegaya-II have successfully completed their mission after having achieved their primary objective last Friday [10 July]. Military Spokesman Colonel Sarath Munasinghe told newsmen that areas between Vettilaikerny and Iyakachchi are now under control of security forces. The Jaffna-Kandy Road through Elephant Pass is now open to the free movement of the general public. Four LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists including a major and a captain were killed by the security forces at Elephant Pass and

Iyakachchi on Wednesday. Meanwhile, the Jaffna Lagoon has been declared as a no-go zone until further notice.

An indefinite curfew in the Puthukkudiyiruppu and Kandavalai AGA [Assistant Government Agent] Division is now in operation. Visuamadu milk collection center and Darmapura Mahavidyala [high school] have been predesignated as safety area. People in the two AGA's areas have been advised to find shelter in safety areas until further notice. They have been advised to keep away 1,000 meters on either side of the (Paranadan)-Mullaittivu Main Road.

Col. Sarath Munasinghe also announced that the Defense Ministry has appointed an independent commission to inquire into massacre of 19 Muslim bus passengers including six women and two children by the LTTE. Seven persons suffered injuries. State Minister for Information A.J. Ranasinghe; Chris de Silva, secretary to the Ministry of Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Social Welfare; and the Director of Information Dr. Sunandam Madamabandara were present at the news conference held at the Gramudaya Center in Colombo yesterday.

Embassies Planned in Hungary, Netherlands

BK1707125592 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Jul 92

[Text] The government will establish two more resident missions at ambassadorial level in Hungary and in the Netherlands. Cabinet of ministers has given its approval for proposal made by Foreign Minister Harold Herath to install these resident missions in order to renew Sri Lanka's representation in Eastern Europe.

Cabinet spokesman Ranil Wickremasinghe told newsmen that many countries have withdrawn their diplomatic missions from Yugoslavia due to the present crisis there. The Yugoslav Embassy in Colombo has also been closed down. He added that the government has, therefore, decided to close down the Sri Lankan diplomatic mission in Belgrade.

The minister said that Hungary is the most convenient location for Sri Lanka's concurrent accredition to other East European capitals. He stated that there is potential to develop tourist trade between Hungary and Sri Lanka.

The minister also pointed out that certain recent developments strongly support the reopening of Sri Lanka's mission in The Hague, capital of Netherlands. The balance of trade between the two countries has been in Sri Lanka's favor.

President Greets Indian President-Elect Sharma

BK1707151092 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1426 GMT 17 Jul 92

["OANA/pool" item; all quotes as received]

[Text] Colombo, 17 July (LANKAPUVATH)—The following congratulatory message has been sent by H.E. [His Excellency] Ranasinghe Premadasa, president of Sri Lanka, to His Excellency Shankar Dayal Sharma, president-elect of the Republic of India, states a press release issued by the Foreign Ministry in Colombo Friday.

"The people and government of Sri Lanka join me in extending to your excellency our warm good wishes on your election as president of India.

You bring to the high office of the president of India a wealth of administrative experience together with outstanding academic achievement.

I am confident that the close and traditional ties of friendship that have existed between our two countries from time immemorial will be further strengthened during your tenure of office.

Please accept, excellency, my best wishes for your good health and personal well-being as well as for the prosperity of the people of India."